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Inter-Arab Affairs

Ambassadors, U.S. Official Discuss Deportees

LD2301201293 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jan

[Text] A delegation of Arab ambassadors to Washington, comprising the ambassadors of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, and led by the dean of the Arab diplomatic corps, His Royal Highness Bandar Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques in the United States, conferred with Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs, to brief him on the Arab League's decision on the Palestinian deportees. After the meeting, His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin- Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz said that it was held to get acquainted with the new U.S. Administration's stance on this important issue and also to brief it on the Arab League's decision.

His highness added: Mr. Djerejian affirmed the U.S. commitment to the UN Security Council resolution, its desire to see the return of the deportees, and its interest in the peace process. The meeting was positive, he asserted. His highness furthermore affirmed the interest of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, in the issue of the brother Palestinian deportees and said that the Kingdom's stance on this matter is a clear and principled one; it can be found in the statement of the Council of Ministers, which held a session recently under the chairmanship of the custodian of the two holy mosques.

His highness added that the meeting with the U.S. official also examined the situation in Bosnia and the UN Security Council resolutions on the matter because of the paramount importance the custodian of the two holy mosques pays to the problem, as stated at the recent Council of Ministers meeting.

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-al-Shafi: 'High Time' UN Asserts Authority

TA2601115593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Chief Palestinian spokesman, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, has welcomed Butrus Butrus-Ghali's recommendations, particularly his call for a UN monitoring mechanism in the territories. Dr. 'Abd-al- Shafi was speaking at a news conference in East Jerusalem this morning:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording] We have been asking for a long time for international protection for the people in the occupied territories, and certainly this comes in very well in response to our longstanding request. The declaration, the report of the secretary general asking the Security Council to take the necessary measures to compel Israel to comply with Resolution 799, also is very welcome. It is high time that the United Nations asserted its authority as an organization that is responsible for keeping peace, and I think it is very well that such a recommendation by the secretary general came at this time. [end recording]

[A related report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 26 January notes that at the news conference, Palestinian leaders "complained that, since the establishment of the Rabin government, 25 children and youths from ages six to 16 have been killed by Army gunfire. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that Israel feels free to do whatever it likes in the territories."]

Al-Husayni Reported To Tour Gulf States

TA2201162193 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 22 Jan 93 pp 1, 6

[Report by Samir Sa'd-al-Din]

[Excerpts] Tunis—Informed Palestinian sources have affirmed that Palestinian-Gulf relations have improved following the two recent successful visits by a Palestinian delegation comprising PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas and Fatah Central Committee member Hakam Bal'awai, the PLO's representative in Tunis, to Qatar and Oman and then the visit by 'Abbas to Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

These sources added that a delegation headed by Faysal al-Husayni, head of the negotiating delegation's steering committee, will soon tour the Gulf, beginning with Saudi Arabia. The visit comes after some personalities in the occupied territories, including members of the negotiating and steering teams, expressed their satisfaction with and appreciation of the Saudi stance in support of Palestinian legitimate national rights—above all the right to self-determination—as well as of the kingdom's readiness to respect any Palestinian decision relating to the Palestinian people's future and its commitment to aid the Palestinian people until the end of occupation.

These sources said that the Palestinian team met at Orient House in the wake of 'Abbas' visit to Saudi Arabia. The team is expecting Saudi aid for the Palestinian negotiators and for the establishment of an infrastructure for the transitional phase, as it is the bridge toward a Palestinian state.

In a related development, al-Husayni met with Mahmud 'Abbas at his office in Tunis yesterday at noon. During this meeting they reviewed the results of 'Abbas' visit to Riyadh. The meeting also dwelt on the peace talks and Palestinian participation in the upcoming round of bilateral talks. In the meeting it became clear that the official Palestinian stance regarding this participation is that it is impossible to send the Palestinian negotiating delegation to Washington to attend the upcoming round unless the problem of the deportees is resolved by returning them to their homeland and their homes through Israel's implementation of Resolution 799, which calls for the immediate return of the deportees, as well as Israel's implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Al-Husayni had officially conveyed this stance to the U.S. consul general in Jerusalem in order that it be relayed to the U.S. Administration.

In conclusion, these sources believe that the occupied territories delegation's tour of the Gulf states will be preceded by another visit by Mahmud 'Abbas.

Al-Husayni Meets With 'Arafat, Plans Saudi Visit

TA2401105193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the overall Palestinian delegation, left today for Jordan on his way to Europe at the invitation of the European Parliament. Udi Segal, our correspondent in the territories, reports that al-Husayni returned at the weekend from a visit to Tunis where he conferred with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The present visit is also part of a series of political working meetings by the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 24 January, in a page 2 report by Pinhas 'Inbari, says that al-Husayni "is due to leave for Riyadh in the coming days and might confer with King Fahd. Husayni told 'AL HAMISHMAR that he plans to implement in the coming days an old invitation to come to Riyadh. He still does not know with whom he will confer in Riyadh, but might be received by King Fahd. On the agenda is a resumption of Saudi aid to the Palestinians, especially in the territories." The newspaper says that al-Husayni "conferred on Thursday with Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] and discussed the outcome of the latter's visit to Riyadh."]

Al-Husayni Says Delegation To Visit Washington

JN2401113693 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1005 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Doha, 24 Jan (WAKH)—Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the advisory committee for the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, has said that contacts are underway with the new U.S. Administration to dispatch a Palestinian delegation to Washington. The Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH, issued today, cited al-Husayni as saying that the objective of this visit is to convey the official Palestinian view to U.S. officials and to hold talks with the administration of President Bill Clinton on the obstacles to the Middle East peace process. He noted that there have been continuous contacts [with the United States] recently to discuss the issue of the deportees, which is considered a major obstacle to the peace process.

The Palestinian official stressed that the Palestinians will not go to the negotiating table if the deportees issue is not solved or if the Security Council resolution on the deportees is not implemented. He noted that the Palestinian stand in this respect is firm and clear.

Al-Husayni on Dialogue With Israel, Other Issues

JN2601110693 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Jan 93 pp 24, 19

[Report by Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the negotiating Palestinian delegation's steering committee, believes that the message sent out by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to the Israeli people via Israeli television some days ago was important and necessary to directly address the Israelis even though only a small part of the message was broadcast.

In an exclusive dialogue with AL-DUSTUR, al-Husayni said that President 'Arafat's message provided a greater number of Israelis with the opportunity to listen to the Palestinian viewpoint on peace—a viewpoint which the Israelis have not heard directly before.

He added: High-ranking officials have indicated that the Israeli rejection of a direct dialogue with the PLO is temporary. He cited Yitzhaq Rabin as saying: We are not negotiating with the PLO now because we are currently negotiating the issue of occupied territories. Al-Husayni added: This, in context, means that a dialogue may be held in the final stage of negotiating the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

On his meetings with the foreign ministers of Spain and Sweden, He said: Talks largely dealt with the issue of deportees in southern Lebanon, the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799, and the need to adopt a decisive stand toward Israel in terms of basic issues. He added that discussion also dealt with the violations of Palestinian human rights, Israel's abandonment of the framework of the peace process, its lack of response to and noncompliance with the terms of reference of this process, and the European role in the construction phase, which we are implementing in order to reconstruct the infrastructure of the Palestinian society and state.

He said: The Europeans are still focusing on supporting humanitarian and health institutions. However, we are trying to direct their interest toward the Palestinian infrastructure.

Responding to a question, al-Husayni said: The Europeans should do their best to take part in the Middle East political process regardless of the U.S. stand. If they surrender to this stand, then someday they will have to do their best somewhere other than earth, which will then belong to one party.

He said: I believe that the interests of Europe are prompting it to try to seek a role for itself or to play its required role in the Middle East.

He added: We talked with the Dutch and French people about building a commercial port in Gaza, but we did not receive studies on or an official response to this issue.

On reviving municipal elections in Nabulus, Gaza, and other cities, al-Husayni said: I have not heard about this so far. However, if these elections take place, there is no relationship between the elections and the issue of national Palestinian authority in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. We are not talking about civil authority or local administrations. Indeed, we are talking about a comprehensive and integrated national authority. Hence, even if municipal elections are held, we will completely separate this from the peace process because such a thing can take place under occupation and other circumstances.

Information from the occupied homeland indicates that there are preparations to hold municipal elections in three main cites in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and that this issue has been discussed between Palestinians and Israelis in Washington and in the occupied territories.

On his invitation to visit Saudi Arabia, al-Husayni said: There is direct talk about this visit with the fraternal Saudis and through other Palestinian channels. However, a date for the visit has not yet been fixed.

He added that the dangers facing all of us, including the dangers facing the Arabian Gulf states must prompt everyone to reformulate inter-Arab relations, including Palestinian-Gulf relations.

On the possibility of achieving a detente and stability in the Middle East region under the new U.S. Administration, he said: Let us say that one of the objectives of the peace process is to achieve stability in the region. They—not further identified—know that there can be no stability and tranquility without solving basic issues such as the Palestinian issue.

He added: We know there is a trend toward achieving stability. This stability has a price and we, the Palestinians, cannot accept stability at our expense.

In reply to a question posed to him by AL-DUSTUR, he said: We do not consider Yitzhaq Rabin's request to meet with the Palestinian delegation as logical. He is always trying to meet our negotiating delegation. Our stand continues to be the same; that is, the delegation has been appointed to fulfill a defined negotiating mission. Hence, we do not expect President Yasir 'Arafat to request a meeting with the Israeli delegation.

He said: However, if Yitzhaq Rabin wants to discuss a bigger issue with the Palestinian side or with the Palestinians, then he will have to request such a meeting and he will meet with those we deem suitable without allowing him to choose those he wants to meet.

He added: We will not meet during the bilateral negotiations and our participation in the committees emanating from the multilateral conference is suspended until the issue of deportees is solved.

On the meeting he and members of the negotiating delegation held with U.S. President Bill Clinton, al-Husayni said: There are arrangements to hold meetings with U.S. officials in the new administration. However, the level of and a date for these meetings has not been fixed.

Al-Husayni arrived in Amman from Tunis on 24 January en route to Belgium to deliver a speech to the European Parliament.

Hamas Representative Interviewed on Peace Process

NC2301172393 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 27 Dec 92 p 4

["Exclusive" interview with 'Imad 'Alami, Hamas representative in Tehran, with unidentified JAHAN-E ESLAM correspondent; date not given]

[Excerpts] [JAHAN-E ESLAM] [passage omitted] In view of the recent events and developments in the occupied areas, what are the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] latest tactics for the struggle?

['Alami] Following the Madrid conference (the sixth round of Arab-Israel peace talks) and the autonomy proposal, Hamas took steps to organize and set up popular Islamic forces. The movement also took measures to combat the plot of creating an autonomous government, an attempt to divert Palestinian public opinion. It embarked on extensive activities to boost the people's awareness and strengthen the armed jihad.

This is why important operations were carried out during the eighth round of talks in Washington in various parts of the occupied territories.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] How does Hamas plan to fulfill the aspirations of the Palestinian nation as soon as possible?

['Alami] Our plans on attaining Palestinian rights hava been inspired by the Koran and the Sunnah [traditions] of the Prophet (peace be upon him). [passage omitted]

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] What do you believe are the U.S. objectives and policies in the Middle East?

['Alami] The United States is pursuing its own interests in the Gulf: To obtain access to low-cost oil by pitting itself against Islam and the Muslims to protect the cancerous tumor of despotic Israel.

The United States also considers the Middle East a suitable market for its products. With the dissolution of the former Soviet Union as the leader of world communism, the United States and the West see themselves as unrivalled champions among the regional Islamic forces and therefore strive to impose their decisions adopted at the Madrid and Washington conferences.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] Why are some of these organizations, such as the PLO, participating in the Arab-Israeli peace talks with the Zionist regime?

['Alami] Recent developments in the region are the result of the Gulf war. The most obvious of these developments are the emergence of discord among Arab countries, the dissolution of the Soviet Union, which supported most of the regional organizations, and the U.S. victory in the cold war.

Despite these events, I believe that Arab obsequiousness in participating in the peace talks is based on other reasons, primarily because they are distancing themselves from Islam and are attempting to establish incorrect political relations with the Eastern and Western enemies. Their sense of weakness before the enemy puts them in a reactive position, which is why they agreed to sit at the Madrid negotiating table.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] What recommendations would you make to the Arab countries participating in the peace talks? How do you view the outcome of the talks, in the context of the struggle?

['Alami] Hamas wants those participating in the talks with the Zionist regime to withdraw immediately. Their participation has inflicted terrible blows to Palestine in the course of these peace talks.

The conferences at Madrid and Washington are nothing but meetings to discuss the sale of Jerusalem and Palestine. First and foremost, the talks legitimize the usurpation of the territories. Ultimately, the talks have had adverse effects. The United States and Israel attempted to impose their own views on the policies of the Arab governments and to make decisions on behalf of the Islamic ummah. This is the most dangerous part of the current issue. [passage omitted]

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] What do you think will be the outcome of the talks?

['Alami] From the outset, we stressed that the talks would be futile. The objective of the Zionist enemy in the talks is to perpetuate the usurpation of the territories and to impose their own rule over the Palestinian people. In addition, they are taking place under the aegis of the leader of the powers of world arrogance; that is, the "anti-Islamic United States," and the trump card will never be in the hand of the Palestinians and Arabs.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] What are your expectations from the West and the Islamic governments?

['Alami] The issues of Jerusalem and Palestine are Islamic issues in which we believe. It is the religious obligation of all Muslims to use every opportunity to support the jihad and the struggle of the nation within the framework of the intifadah and armed confrontation. Our nation is currently being subject to an economic siege, catastrophic massacres, merciless deportations, and incarcerations aimed at erasing the "nocturnal path" (allusion to the Prophet Muhammad's celestial ascension, peace be upon him) from our hearts. [passage omitted]

Hamas Source Cited on Dialogue With PLO

PM2501171393 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jan 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Fatah and Hamas Resume Dialogue in Khartoum Amid Accusations That 'Arafat Violated Initial Agreement"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Fatah-Hamas followup committee will meet again in Khartoum within the next two days in the context of the dialogue which began between the two movements under the auspices of [Sudanese National Islamic Front Secretary General] Hasan al-Turabi.

A responsible Hamas source in Jordan has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that his movement's representatives will go to the meeting to raise several issues with the Fatah officials. Most important of these issues, he said, are the "offensive" statements made by 'Arafat in Cairo recently and published by an Egyptian magazine in which 'Arafat said that Hamas was under pressure from the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan. The source said that 'Arafat's statements constituted a violation of the initial agreement signed by the two sides. The same source also said that Hamas was unhappy that the initial agreement between the two sides was signed for Fatah not by its chief delegate Salim al-Za'nun but by his deputy, Haj Nasr Yusuf.

He added that his movement was unhappy that Fatah has so far not named its representatives to the Deportees Joint Committee and the Central Dialogue Committee formed during last month's meeting between the two movements in Khartoum.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that at the forthcoming Khartoum meeting the Hamas representatives will submit a protest to Fatah's representatives against the report submitted by Salim al-Za'nun and Nasr Yusuf to Fatah's Revolutionary Council to the effect that Hamas leaders did not want to join the PLO and that their real intentions did not reflect seriousness about the dialogue over joining the PLO.

A Hamas leader has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that these allegations were not true and were also not innocent. We want to know from them, he said, how they reached these conclusions detrimental to the current dialogue.

Joining PLO Called 'Strategic' Not 'Tactical'

JN2501125293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Jan 93 p 25

[Report by Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpts] Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has affirmed that the wish to join PLO institutions is sincere and strategic, and not a tactical move. He added that his movement's desire to participate in the PLO's various bodies goes back to the early sixties, but the circumstances experienced by the Palestinian Islamic movement prevented the realization of this wish.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, Ghawshah said: We want to march to the same tune, and we want to be among our brothers in all Palestinian factions, regardless of ideological, and even political, differences. This is because we believe that democracy and the majority at the Palestine National Council [PNC] should settle differences. But the question remains: Who represents the majority and who represents the minority?

He added: There are not two currents in Hamas, one for and one against joining PLO institutions. There is a general trend that wants to express its Islamic and jihad self through the PLO.

He noted that the ball is now in the PLO's court by opening the door to all factions, including Hamas, and starting to make arrangements to hold a comprehensive national dialogue to agree on new foundations to form the PNC and other institutions on representational, consultative, and democratic bases. Agreement should also be reached on a national jihad program committed to the constant principles of the Palestinian people and the materialization of the slogans of national unity, as well as activating the intifadah, which is the living revolution of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

Answering a question, Ghawshah said: It has been agreed to form a joint Islamic-national leadership inside the occupied territories which opens its doors to all factions, and to stop issuing unilateral or separate statements by the Unified National Leadership of the intifadah or Hamas.

If the joint leadership is established, he said, then it will substitute all other proposals in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He noted that forming the proposed leadership requires meetings and dialogues among Fatah and Hamas and other factions to agree on a political struggle program that takes into consideration the constant principles of the Palestinian people and that guides intifadah and jihad operations inside the territories.

On the latest developments in the question of the deportees, Ghawshah said: The deportation of 415 Palestinians is a fatal political step. We are certain that Yitzhaq Rabin wants to overcome the predicament he is facing at the lowest cost possible. That is why he is trying to circumvent the question of deportees, which is considered a just cause and an act rejected on the humanitarian and political levels. [passage omitted]

Answering another question, Ghawshah said: We are for ending the occupation. However, the occupation authorities will not withdraw from any inch of territory unless they are riddled with wounds and unless they reach the conclusion that the price of staying in Palestine is very high.

He added: We do not object to adopting a positive attitude if the Zionists withdraw from Gaza Strip, as they declare from time to time, on the condition that a phased national Palestinian entity be established. We will also demand that the substance of this entity be Islamic, in accordance with democratic norms. The important thing is that we should not recognize [Israel] or give up our rights to all of Palestine from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

Ghawshah denied that any of Fatah's cadres joined the Hamas movement after the two recent operations. He said: I have no information regarding this subject. We want the brothers in Fatah to carry out their duties under Fatah's basic umbrella and principles, adding that the battle will unite ranks. [passage omitted]

World Bank To Study Occupied Territories' Finances

LD2501182893 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source said in Jerusalem yesterday that a delegation representing the World Bank is currently visiting the occupied territories to study their financial needs.

The source said the delegation is making field visits in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip with the aim of preparing a study on the needs of the Palestinian private sector.

The source added that the World Bank mission, which is one of five other missions expected to arrive within the next few weeks, emerged as a result of the multilateral talks on economic development held in Paris last October. The source pointed out that the studies the World Bank is carrying out are the first of their kind, especially as it is studying the financial requirements of the occupied territories as part of the requirements of the region.

OPEC Affairs

Saudi Oil Minister Urges Cut in Petroleum Output

LD2301194393 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] His excellency the minister of oil and mineral resources, Hisham Muhyi-al-Din Nazir, said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had put a proposal to the chairman of OPEC calling for a one million barrel per day cut in the organization's current output ceiling, which was agreed in November 1992.

He added that the cut should be distributed among the members in proportion to their quotas and that all

should totally abide by the agreement and refrain from giving discounts on market prices.

He went on to say that he made this proposal to the Venezuelan minister of energy when they met in Paris on Friday. Nazir said that he believed that if all members abided by the agreement the oil market would show a big improvement.

Kuwaiti Minister Says Production Cuts Possibility

NC2501135593 Paris AFP in English 1300 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Kuwait City, Jan 25 (AFP)—A reluctant Kuwait said Monday [25 January] it would consider cutting oil production following Iranian and Saudi calls for OPEC cutbacks.

"Cuts were on the table as a possibility, unfortunately," Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali al-Baghli said Monday at the end of a visit by OPEC chairman Olirio Parra.

Parra, who left for Qatar on a tour to encourage cuts and stop falling oil prices, said: "If we don't take measures, this could be quite difficult."

Saudi Arabia has proposed cutting total production by one million barrels a day from the level agreed in Vienna last November. Iran has also supported cutbacks.

"We have discussed the cuts with Saudi Arabia and Iran," Parra said, referring to his discussions in Paris with Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir and those in Tehran with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

"Everybody agrees on an overall cut," said Parra, who is also Venezuela's oil minister. "What each country will do will be (decided) [parentheses as received] at the meeting in February" of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Venezuelan ambassador Julio Cesar Pineda said al-Baghli and the emir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, gave no commitment on a cutback, but offered reluctantly to consider one.

Al-Baghli described them as "bitter medicine" for Kuwait, whose oil industry was devastated by the Iraqi invasion.

He hoped Kuwait would be exempt from any cuts decided on at the next OPEC meeting in February, but added Kuwait would "not deviate" from any decision.

After Qatar, Parra will visit Oman, a non-member of OPEC, the United Arab Emirates and Algeria.

The OPEC chairman also promised he would visit other non-OPEC producers like Mexico and Norway in a bid to get them to reduce production, according to Pineda.

In November, ministers from the 12-member Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries set a production ceiling of 24.582 mbd [million barrels a day] for the first quarter of 1993.

But the ceiling failed to halt the decline in oil prices, which remain below the OPEC target of 21 dollars a barrel.

Nazir, in talks with Parra last week, proposed a further reduction of one million barrels a day at the upcoming OPEC meeting.

Rafsanjani urged OPEC members "to respect and reinforce their decision" to limit output.

Parra said in Kuwait Sunday that there was "broad consensus" between Saudi Arabia and Iran on the issue.

Egypt

Musa, Spanish Foreign Minister View Issues

NC2501150893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1349 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received visiting Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis at noon today.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Spanish ambassador in Cairo attended.

After the meeting, the Spanish foreign minister said he delivered a message to Mubarak from Spanish King Juan Carlos.

He said he held intensive talks during his visit to Egypt, adding: I leave Cairo fully satisfied with the course of Egyptian- Spanish relations.

The Spanish foreign minister said his talks with Mubarak and Musa dealt with current international developments, particularly peace in the Middle East and the Mediterranean basin. He noted that Spain and Egypt are concerned about such issues.

Solana expressed hope Egypt will adopt a new international initiative on the problems of the Mediterranean.

Asked whether he now has a clearer picture of the Middle East peace process following his trip to Egypt and the beginning of his visit to Israel, Solana said it is important for the Israelis to listen to the views of Spain and Egypt on the peace process.

He stressed that his country is committed to continuing the peace process because there is no other alternative.

The Spanish foreign minister asserted that his country, in its capacity as an EC and Security Council member, will do its best to break the deadlock in the peace process and provide everything possible for its continuation.

On the problem of the Palestinian deportees and the role of Spain and Europe in solving it, Solana expressed hope the problem will be solved in accordance with UN resolutions. He stressed that the UN and Security Council resolutions must be implemented by all countries.

On the coming policies of the administration of new U.S. President Bill Clinton, the Spanish foreign minister said we hope this administration will adopt the peace process launched by former President Bush's administration, and consequently, that this process will continue and find appropriate solutions to the Middle East problem.

Foreign Minister Musa said there is nothing new concerning the Palestinian deportees other than the pending ruling by the Israeli Supreme Court.

He expressed hope the court will rule the Israeli Government's decision illegal.

Musa expressed confidence that the Spanish minister will inform Israeli officials during his brief visit to Israel of the need to solve this problem as soon as possible so that the peace process can resume in a relaxed atmosphere. If this problem is not solved, he said, the peace process will face a real threat.

On Egypt's views about the new U.S. Administration, Musa voiced hope things will go well concerning the peace process. He also expressed hope the U.S. Administration will continue its determination to play a positive role in the peace process.

Spanish Foreign Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

NC2501132993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA)—Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana left Cairo this afternoon following a brief visit during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

In Cairo, the Spanish minister held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the situation in the Middle East and the role Spain and the EC can play in pushing the peace process forward and in removing the obstacles being placed by Israel, particularly the deportation of the Palestinians.

Foreign Minister Musa and the Spanish ambassador in Cairo saw Solana off.

Official on Iraq Stance; Deputies Reject Attacks

NC2501185793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1707 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA)—Ambassador Badr Hammam, assistant foreign minister and director of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Department, has stressed that Egypt adheres to its position on the need to maintain the unity of the Iraqi people of all sects and the rejection of any attempt or call to divide Iraqi territory or people.

In a meeting today of the People's Assembly's Arab Affairs Committee, Hammam said we should not seek to demolish international legitimacy. We are working so that this legitimacy will be applied in all cases, including the Palestinian deportees issue and the Bosnia-Hercegovina tragedy.

The assistant foreign minister said: We call on Iraq to pursue a policy that spares the Iraqi people any crisis. He stressed the need for the Arabs to influence UN Security Council resolutions.

The deputies stressed their full rejection of attacks against Iraq when Israel is left to practice belligerence and disregard Security Council resolutions. They

stressed that the attacks against Iraq are not based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

During the discussions, the deputies called for a position toward the United States [waqfah ma' al-wilayat al-muttahidah] and for lifting the ban on the export of medicine and food to the Iraqi people.

Iraq Raids Show 'Law of Power, Not Power of Law'

NC2601075393 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 23 Jan 93 p 9

[Editorial: "International Legality Is Indivisible"]

[Text] The air raids launched by the United States, France, and Britain against northern and southern Iraq and the U.S. missile attack against Baghdad lead to one conclusion: There are double standards in applying international law. Opponents and proponents of Iraq share this conclusion. Some Gulf papers have spoken about it and called for the need to apply international law to the Palestinian issue, the deportees, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and the occupied Arab territories. Egypt, the Arab countries, and the Saudi Cabinet stressed the need to apply this rule to these issues.

As well as revealing the double standards, the raids also show that they are not proportionate to the nature and magnitude of the Iraqi acts, never mind their being carried out without the endorsement of the UN and the Security Council. The raids expressed the law of power, not the power of law. If Iraq's lot was missiles and bombs, we are entitled to ask what will be the lot of Serbia and Israel.

Israeli Parliamentarians Meet Musa, Comment

NC2401193793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1856 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met tonight with the Meretz delegation currently visiting Cairo. The delegation includes Beni Temkin, secretary general of the Citizens Rights Movement, and member Ran Kohen.

Following the meeting, Temkin said that discussions dealt with two major issues: first, bilateral relations in various fields and the importance of strengthening them and of doing all necessary to achieve a higher degree of rapprochement; second, the peace process and Egypt's role in bringing the Israelis and Arabs closer. Temkin added: We do not believe that peace will be achieved in the region unless there exists a constructive dialogue between the Israelis and Palestinians and that there will be no solution to the Middle East problem without this dialogue. He added that Meretz will pressure the Israeli Government to move forward and recognize Palestinian rights and their right to find a solution for their cause.

Meretz Knesset Member Kohen said he was optimistic about solving the deportees' issue. He said: We understand that the issues of peace, occupation of territories, settlements, and security will decide the fate of relations between Israel and the Palestinians and the Arab countries.

He also expressed his belief that a solution must be found to the deportees' issue within the framework of endeavors to achieve peace, adding that without peace the region will suffer aggression, violence, and terrorism. The problem of the deportees must be solved, he added.

Kohen said: Meretz is opposed to Israel's deportation decision. We criticized it because it was not the right way to solve the problem. The Israeli Government should have done something positive, not negative. This is why we criticized the government's decision. A compromise solution must be found for the problem if we want the peace process to continue.

Kohen discussed the Knesset's decision to lift the ban on contacts with the PLO, saying that the decision was made by the Knesset majority and shows that there is a real change in Israel. He said he hopes a constructive dialogue will open between the Israelis and Palestinians.

Official Expects No Change in U.S. Policy

NC2601123093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, has reiterated that the transfer of the U.S. Administration to the Democratic Party will not affect U.S. relations with Egypt. The United States realizes the importance of Egypt's role in the Middle East, which represents a vital region for U.S. interests, Dr. 'Abdallah added.

He ruled out the possibility of change in the U.S. role in promoting the peace process, because it is a cosponsor of the Middle East peace conference. He urged Egypt and the Arab countries to make every effort to ensure the continuation of the U.S. role.

In a statement today, the committee chairman said he hoped the Palestinian deportees' issue will soon be solved to create an appropriate atmosphere to hold the peace negotiations and realize a just and lasting Middle East peace. He also called for conducting a realistic dialogue between Israel and the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

U.S. Policy Toward Iran, Iraq Discussed

NC2401211493 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 20 Jan 93 p 2

[Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad article: "Who Has The Greater Ability To Bring Down U.S. Presidents: Iraq or Iran?!"]

[Text] Bill Clinton takes over the U.S. presidency today at a time when he has to make grave decisions, the most important of which concerns the legacy left by his predecessor, George Bush, in the sphere of foreign policy, foremost of which is the confrontation with Iraq, which has reached a climax.

Clinton based his elections campaign on giving priority to the internal rebuilding of the United States and the premise that the country must avoid involvement in foreign adventures that might complicate or impede this task.

A few weeks before he left the White House, Bush embarked on an operation described as aiming to "restore hope" to the starving people in Somalia. Clinton might find himself involved in this operation for many months to come. We are not judging here the soundness of Bush's decision to intervene in Somalia; we are talking only about this decision's effects on President Clinton's campaign promises. President Bush seized the opportunity of Clinton's defense of human rights issues to involve him in an operation that forced the world to agree with America's global policy.

Only few days before leaving the White House, Bush decided to launch escalating and dangerous air and missile attacks on Iraq, including in Baghdad itself. Once again, Clinton had no choice but to support the operation.

Saddam undoubtedly wanted to have a fight with Bush in the latter's last days in office. Saddam wanted to give the Iraqi people proof that Bush was not the victor and, that he, Saddam, did not lose the Gulf war. Further proof of this is the fact that Bush was removed from power while Saddam is still ruling in Iraq, with an iron fist. Saddam even wanted to show that he could still fight Bush without being harmed. As a result, Bush struck his deeply ferocious vengeful blows. What should we expect from Clinton?

There might be different arguments about Saddam's role in Bush's defeat. What is certain, however, is that the Khomeyni regime in Iran did bring down Jimmy Carter. Successive U.S. administrations have differed on which of the countries is America's principal enemy in the Gulf region, which has the most important oil reserves in the world: Iraq or Iran?

At one time, under the shah, Iran was America's major prop in the region. Khomeyni's Islamic revolution came and Iran became the principal enemy. At that time, Washington supported the Iraqi regime because it welcomed its hostility to Khomeyni. The U.S. Administration also secretly supported President Saddam and let him understand that it would back him to become the "Gulf cop" in lieu of Iran's shah. There was much talk about U.S. involvement in the "Irangate" scandal. There was also an "Iraqgate". The Reagan administration and then the Bush administration played major roles in these scandals. The future will expose many things. Bush's last-minute decision to pardon former Secretary of Defense Weinberger, who was accused of lying to Congress about the scandals, was no coincidence. Bush knew that the investigations might spread to include him personally.

Thus it becomes clear that Saddam Husayn was not always America's sole enemy in the Gulf region. There have even been reports of arguments in Washington on which one of the two regimes, the Iraqi or Iranian, is more worthy of Washington's strong hostility.

Clinton may not be committed to his predecessor's hostile policy toward Iraq, especially because the Iranian regime represents a danger that is growing as fast as extremism in the name of religion across the region and because Saddam could be "useful" (!) to U.S. policy in certain circumstances. Has not the clamor he raised during Bush's last week in office diverted world attention from the problem of the Palestinian deportees?

Israel is encouraging extremism in the name of Islam with its persistent arbitrariness.

Clinton may look for an understanding with the Iraqi regime. In statements he made when he was asked his view about the first air strike ordered by Bush, there were indications that he would not completely rule out reaching an understanding with Iraq. He then saw it wiser to retract, at least to ensure the transfer of power without problems.

Saddam's calculations in provoking Bush might not be completely wrong.

President Clinton Urged To 'Undo' Bush 'Wrong'

NC2601073893 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 24 Jan 93 pp 5-6

["Just an Opinion" column by Chief Editor Salah Muntasir: "Clinton Succeeds Bush in the Confrontation With Saddam. Will Clinton Undo Bush's Recent Wrongdoing?"]

[Excerpts] There is a saying that you can get too much of a good thing. This saying is true of the way in which "former President" George Bush closed the file on his dealings with Saddam Husayn. Bush fought Saddam twice, in January 1991 and January 1993, but the difference between the two cases is great. Bush's astounding success in his first war, two years ago, can only match his absolute failure in the second. Contrary to his wishes, Bush's last acts as President were his worst. [passage omitted]

In 1991, Bush led the alliance forces against Saddam without making Saddam a hero. In the recent attacks, Bush made the grave mistake of turning Saddam into a victim.

Bush could have called off the attacks after the first strike against Saddam, because that first attack was enough to establish Saddam as an outlaw and a man who failed to uphold UN resolutions. But the series of sea and

air raids that followed changed the picture, making Saddam look less of an outlaw who breached UN resolutions and Bush increasingly like someone violating [international] law and the spirit of UN [resolutions].

Two years ago, Bush's greatest achievement was his ability to maintain the cohesion of the alliance and international resolve to discipline Saddam. Lately the alliance was on the verge of collapse, particularly as Russia voiced opposition to civilian losses during the attacks. [passage omitted]

In his public statements, Clinton voiced complete support for Bush's actions. Clinton's aides specializing in foreign policy and national security affairs were constantly present at the Pentagon during the crisis, declaring their approval after decisions were made. Considering Clinton's support for Bush's policy, the question that Clinton must address in his first day in office is: Why does U.S. and international justice suffer from such "tunnel vision?" Why does this justice fail to see anything but Arab countries violating international resolutions, in which case it hastens to enforce strict sanctions against them?

We do not object to the implementation of international resolutions but we want others to be treated in the same way that is becoming a sole "privilege" of the Arabs. We do not want the Arabs to be so privileged. We want U.S. justice to get its eyes treated for this "tunnel vision" that makes it see only the Arabs. Everyone must uphold justice and the law; anyone violating UN resolutions should be punished. Clinton's primary task is to undo the wrong that Bush has done.

Clinton Criticized for Playing Saddam's 'Game'

NC2601080493 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 23 Jan 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Clinton Fails First Test"]

[Text] The recent U.S. air raid on Iraq dispelled world optimism about the emergence of a fair new world order when U.S. President Bill Clinton assumed office. The air raid destroyed the credibility of U.S. foreign policy. In the eyes of the international community, this policy has been translated into brute force wreaking havoc in the world without specific principles or values, attacking people suffering from the adventures of an oppressive ruler without consideration, and refusing to turn the guns against the oppressive aggressors in Bosnia and Israel. The U.S. press tried to absorb the world's anger after the raid, publishing reports citing the Pentagon saying that the recent strike was routine and an isolated incident that was not carried out on Washington's instructions. It also claimed that the routine measures give U.S. aircraft the right to self-defense if they are threatened. These claims lack any credibility in light of Iraq's announcement that it would observe a unilateral cease-fire when President Clinton assumed office. They show a misdirected U.S. policy at the start of the new administration's term. The use of force to protect the no-fly zones in north and south Iraq remains the subject of broad debate in the corridors of the United Nations, where most Security Council members doubt the legality of the use of force without a clear resolution.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn dragged former U.S. President George Bush into the trap of provocation and aggression. In his cat and mouse game used since the occupation of Kuwait, Saddam did not consider the security or safety of the Iraqi people, who are still paying dear for his adventures. But Saddam tried to prove that he abandoned the game of provocation after Bush's departure. Irrespective of Saddam's real intentions, Clinton had the opportunity to dismiss the charges of being inexperienced in foreign affairs, but he failed in the first test after he fired his shells, which will not harm Saddam but will, as usual, harm a fraternal Arab people who are paying for a reckless ruler's adventures and for the use of brute force.

'Extremists' Planning To Attack Embassies Arrested

NC2501152593 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1427 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Security authorities have arrested the members of an extremist organization who were planning to carry out a number of attacks against foreign embassies and important installations. The organization included 20 extremists. A quantity of weapons, explosives, and ammunition which they planned to use in the implementation of their criminal plans was found in their possession.

The security authorities uncovered the organization after some of its members seized a furniture transport vehicle and shot dead the driver and his assistant in the al-Muqattam area. Then they changed the vehicle's color and attached stolen (public) license plates so it could be used to carry out their operations. The vehicle was found in the Imbabah area. Security authorities are continuing to interrogate the culprits to uncover their criminal plans.

Musa Returns From Tokyo, Comments on Talks

NC2301155593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2331 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo this evening from Tokyo after a four-day visit to Japan during which he met with a large number of Japanese officials. In an arrival statement, Musa said his talks in Tokyo were fruitful, constructive, and full of important topics that concern both countries. He added that in his talks, he discussed bilateral ties, the Middle East peace process, the situation in Asia, Japan's current and future policies, and President Mubarak's invitation to visit Japan.

Musa was asked about the failure of the UN envoy to secure the return of the Palestinian deportees. He said

there is still time to complete contacts on the issue and that they must be returned home, as their deportation marred the atmosphere of the peace talks. He said he hopes contacts will continue and international efforts will double after the deportees return.

Briefs Mubarak on Talks

NC2301155993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—Speaking after his meeting with President Mubarak today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that he submitted a report to the president on his recent trip to Japan and his talks there. He added that he also briefed Mubarak on his talks with the Netherlander foreign minister during his layover in Amsterdam on his way back from Japan, noting that they discussed recent international developments. Concluding his statement, Musa said that President Mubarak will visit Japan at the invitation of the Japanese emperor. The date of the visit will be set through diplomatic channels, he added.

Minister Pledges To 'Escalate' Antiterror Campaign

NC2501144193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0844 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Speech by Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa at the Police Day ceremony at the Police Academy in Cairo—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Recently we confronted the practices of the terrorist elements that hide behind religion. The plot was not new in its kind but was fierce in its dimensions and low in its methods. As much as the test was difficult, the will was strong. As much as the challenges were immense and grave, the sacrifices were lofty and great. Police officers and soldiers offered their lives to redeem their homeland. [passage omitted]

On this dear occasion, I will not speak about comprehensive plans to confront and preempt but I will discuss specific points for clarification:

1. With God's help, we have tightened our control of events and settled our confrontation with terrorist elements. But we do not wage a battle, settle it, then the issue is finished. We do not shoulder a responsibility, meet it, then rest. I say very clearly that we will not be deceived by our apparent success and we will not imagine that a cure has been found just because the symptoms have disappeared. Our confrontation of terrorist elements is continuous, will escalate, and will not stop, whether these elements act in the street or keep quiet.

2. The terrorist elements with their wicked aims have stooped low to new kinds of crime hitherto unknown in the history of crime in our homeland. With their rash behavior, they wanted the police to lose their patience and to free themselves from the restrictions of law and the controls of legitimacy to become, like them, a tool of repression, oppression, and terrorism.

I say with conviction and determination that we will not allow them to assassinate our most brilliant achievements. The supremacy of law is above everything else. The principles of democracy are secure against any departure from them.

3. In their stubborn determination to crush and uproot terrorist elements, the police are not an insane authority or a blind force that strikes without justice or reason. We deal with every situation individually and consider each case. More specifically, I say: If quiet dialogue suffices, we welcome it; but if the fatal bullet is necessary, we will not hesitate to fire it.

4. Mobilizing their efforts to eliminate terrorist elements, they do not do this at the expense of their other duties. If they do, they will sacrifice the more comprehensive goal for the sake of a limited goal. Security is an interlinked concept measured by an integral vision and not by small things. What is the value of the success the police achieve in confronting terrorism if the price is the spread of narcotics, the increase of crimes, and the negligence of the masses' issues and basic interests. I assure you, Mr. President, from official data and statistics, that the period past saw a continuing decline in crime. It also saw efforts being intensified to face these crimes. [passage omitted]

Turkish Resources and Energy Minister Visits

TA2401120593 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1000 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, Jan 24 (AA)—Turkish Natural Resources and Energy Minister Ersin Faralyali arrived at Cairo as the official guest of his Egyptian counterpart Mahir Abazah on Saturday [24 January].

Faralyali speaking at his arrival said energy is an important sector between Turkey and Egypt.

Faralyali said he will hold talks on a project of an electric line that will link Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Egypt.

Faralyali said Turkey was willing to improve economic relations with Egypt.

Faralyali is expected to return to Turkey on Wednesday.

Meets With Prime Minister Sidqi

TA2501110693 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1010 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, Jan 25 (AA)—Natural Resources and Energy Minister Ersin Faralyali, currently in Egypt on an official visit, on Sunday [24 January] met Egyptian Premier 'Atif Muhammad Najib Sidqi.

Bilateral relations and economic topics were discussed during the meeting at which Egyptian Electricity and

Energy Minister Muhammad Abazah and the Turkish ambassador in Cairo were also present.

Confers With Mubarak

NC2501141493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1324 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Turkish Energy Minister Ersin Faralyali at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis this afternoon.

Electricity and Energy Minister Mahir Abazah and the Turkish ambassador in Cairo also attended.

The Turkish minister said President Mubarak asked him to speed up the electricity grid between Egypt and Turkey via Syria and Jordan. He said he briefed the president on Turkish and Egyptian efforts to carry out immense projects other than a power link of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Turkey, agreement on which was signed in Damascus. [passage omitted]

Romanian Ministry Official Arrives for Talks

NC2401074993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—Gheorghe Tinca, Romanian minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo early this morning from Bucharest on a two-day official visit to Egypt.

The Romanian minister will hold talks this afternoon with Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Isma'il Mubarak on the situation in the Middle East and Egyptian-Romanian relations.

During his visit, Tinca will sign an agreement to bolster cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation between Egypt and Romania.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi's Efforts Toward Arab Unity Hailed

LD2501162293 Tripoli JANA in English 1436 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Tripoli, A'ina al-Nar [January] 25—JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution arrived in [words indistinct] from Cairo at the end of his visit to sisterly Egypt. He left Cairo yesterday after a grand farewell ceremony led by President Husni Mubarak.

The Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi, the deputy prime minister and the ministers of planning, agriculture, foreign affairs, information, transport, electricity, [word indistinct], the Council of ministers affairs, scientific research, the governor of Cairo and senior officials in the Arab Republic of Egypt were also present at the farewell.

The military band played the chant of Allah Akbar and the national anthem of the Arab Republic of Egypt after which the leader of the revolution and President Husni Mubarak reviewed the guard of honour lined for their salute.

The leader of the revolution then [words indistinct] President Husni Mubarak and the senior members of the farewell party.

Upon the arrival of the leader of the revolution in the city of Marsa Matruh the masses of local people hurried to receive the leader and lined the road to salute him and express their admiration for his great and sincere efforts towards the establishment of total Arab unity. They called for the urgent implementation of Arab unity and the abolishing of all borders created by the colonialists between the people of the one Arab nation.

The [word indistinct] fused with the [words indistinct] stopped to exchange their salute and to shake hands with them as they called for the long life of the great al-Fatah and its leader and confirmed the impotence of the colonialists in distorting the facts which unite this single nation that will never be fragmented by the colonialists.

During his stay in Cairo the leader of the revolution held a series of talks with President Husni Mubarak.

Further talks were also held in the presence of Dr. 'Atif Sidqi the prime minister and a number of ministers in the Arab Republic of Egypt and the delegation accompanying the leader of the revolution.

The leader of the revolution also met a number of officials in the government, in the National Assembly and the Shurah Council in addition to a number of intellectuals and men of letters and culture, top industrialists and leading businessmen in Egypt. The meetings concentrated on the programme of integration of resources of the people of the one Arab nation of both the Great Jamahariyah and Egypt as well as the major issues of the Arab nation topped by the issue of unity and national security.

High-Level Tunisian Delegation Arrives in Tripoli

LD2201232193 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Brother Hamed Karoui, prime minister of fraternal Tunisia, and brothers Interior Minister Abdallah Kellel, Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya, National Economy Minister Sadok Rabah, Social Affairs Minister Mohamed Fadhel Khelil, and Said Ben Mustapha, secretary of state to the foreign affairs minister in charge of Arab Maghreb Union affairs, and Mohamed El-Beji Hamda, governor of the Central Bank, arrived in Tripoli this evening to take part in the eighth session of the Libyan-Tunisian higher follow-up committee. [passage omitted]

Tunisian Prime Minister Brother Hamed Karoui gave JANA a statement in which he said:

[Begin Karoui recording] First, I would like to express my happiness at meeting the brothers in the Libyan leadership, specifically in Tripoli, on the land of the fraternal jamahiriyah, and to convey his excellency the president's regards to his brother the leader of the Fatih revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and the love and esteem which he cherishes for him.

I want to affirm the Tunisian people's solidarity with the fraternal Libyan people, particularly in this circumstance, during which the people of the jamahiriyah have been harmed as a result of the international embargo—an embargo, which should have been lifted due to the efforts of the jamahiriyah to respond to the UN demands. In our opinion, the remaining measures or arrangements, could be completed within the framework of a responsible and constructive dialogue with mutual respect. I also affirm that the solutions which we could look for under pressure and threats can (?never) be satisfactory.

I would like to remind that Tunisia has from the very first moment sided with the Libyan people, and His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has conducted the necessary contacts, and has instructed Tunisian diplomacy to take steps. The positive results were [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

Jallud Meets With Tunisian Premier

LD2301113893 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Jan (JANA)—Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, held talks in Tripoli last night with brother Hamed Karoui, prime minister of fraternal Tunisia, who has arrived in the Great Jamahiriyah for the meetings of the eighth session of the Libyan-Tunisian follow-up committee.

During the meeting there was a review of the fraternal relations between the sons of the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia. Ways of bolstering and developing these relations were discussed.

The meeting was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for industry and the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for external liaison and international cooperation. Attending on behalf of fraternal Tunisia were Interior Minister Abdallah Kellal and Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya.

Committee Meets on Unity Issues

LD2301145793 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] The proceedings of the 8th session of the Higher Libyan Arab-Tunisian Follow-Up Committee began in Tripoli this morning. The opening session was attended by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud; Maj. al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi; and brother Hamed Karoui, the prime minister of sister Tunisia, in addition to the secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry; the secretary of the General People's Congress of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation; the secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning, Trade, and Finance; the secretary of the General People's Committee for Health and Social Security; the governor of the Libyan Central Bank; and the ambassador of the Great Jamahiriyah to Tunisia. The Tunisian side was also represented by Abdallah Kallel, minister of state and minister of interior; Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya; Finance Minister Sadok Rabah; Social Affairs Minister Mohamed Fadhel Khelil; Said Ben Mustapha, secretary of state for Maghreb Union Affairs; Tunisian Central Bank Governor El-Beji Hamza; and the Tunisian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

At the meeting, Staff Maj. Jallud delivered a speech, which he opened by welcoming the brothers from sister Tunisia taking part in the proceedings of the 8th session of the Higher Libyan Arab-Tunisian Follow-Up Committee. He said: The meetings of this session, at this moment, carry a political and economic significance at a time when the Great Jamahiriyah is being subjected to the imposition of unjust coercive measures. He added that any attempt to weaken Libya was an attempt to weaken Tunisia and the entire Arab nation because the West looks at the Arab nation in the same way.

Staff Maj. Jallud also stressed the importance of the meetings of the Higher Follow-Up Committee to develop the building of union between the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia. He further said that the Higher Committee was empowered to implement programs and projects and achieve integration in all fields. He added in this respect: We must overcome the Western attempts to weaken the Arab nation and undermine its sovereignty so that we can continue our march towards the realization of Arab unity. He then stressed the importance and need to establish total Arab unity from the Atlantic to the Gulf for the sake of the dignity and strength of the Arab nation and in order to enable it to lead a worthy life.

He concluded his speech by saying that the unionist action between the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia, through this committee, is a strong support to build and strengthen the Maghreb Union, which should be an forward step on the road to total Arab unity.

Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui also delivered a speech, which he opened by stressing the importance of the meetings of the Higher Libyan Arab-Tunisian Follow-Up Committee in order to achieve integration in all fields between the two countries and to turn it into a tangible reality that will be felt by the Arab citizen. He pointed out that all the conditions for integration between the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia were available and that all the difficulties that might come in our way must be overcome.

Brother Hamed Karoui renewed the solidarity and support of the Arab people of Tunisia for the Great Jamahiriyah in confronting the coercive mesures imposed upon it. He also stressed the need to lift these unjust measures and hailed the civilized way in which the Great Jamahiriyah was trying to find a solution to its crisis with the Western states.

Committee Meeting Concludes

LD2401200793 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Excerpts] The proceedings of the eighth session of the Higher Tunisian-Libyan Committee for Follow-up concluded in Tripoli this afternoon under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Hamed Karoui and Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, in the presence of the members of the two countries' delegations.

During the final session Mr. Hamed Karoui and Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud signed the minutes of the eighth session of the Higher Tunisian-Libyan Committee for Follow-up.

In a speech, Mr. Hamed Karoui first expressed his satisfaction at the fraternal atmosphere and the sincere determination for consolidating the fraternal links and cooperation between the two brotherly peoples, and raising them to the level of the political will which motivates President Zine Abidine Ben Ali and his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and to the level of the aspirations of two peoples, the Tunisian and the Libyan, for impregnability and progress, which characterized the proceedings of the committee. [passage omitted]

He reaffirmed Tunisia's solidarity with the Jamahiriyah in this temporary crisis through which it is passing, and said that President Zine Abidine Ben Ali, who assumes the presidency of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], is determined to exert the utmost effort for the sake of arriving at an honorable solution to the crisis existing between Libya and some western countries.

The prime minister affirmed that there is a joint plan for more action at the AMU level in view of the fact that the objective data is available to lift this embargo on sisterly Libya.

Mr. Hamed Karoui highlighted the closeness of bilateral viewpoints. He affirmed that practical and exemplary decisions have been taken, especially in the sphere of the flow of commodities and the movement of persons, which are bound to help enhance the Maghreban process and increase the activation of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. [passage omitted]

For his part, Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud expressed his happiness at the presence on Libyan soil of the Tunisian brothers, members of the Higher Tunisian-Libyan Committee for Follow-up. He praised the fraternal spirit, the responsible dialogue, and the deep and objective discussion which characterized the proceedings of this committee, which freely proves the two sides' desire to consolidate the integration work between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud touched on the embargo imposed on Libya and the suffering of the Libyan people as a result of this embargo which, he said, is inconsistent with international conventions and incompatible with human rights. He affirmed that the Arab Maghreb countries and the Arab nation must make more moves to take a serious stance which would help lift this embargo. He pointed out that Libya has dealt with this case in a civilized manner, and added that we are prepared to cooperate with the brothers in the Arab Maghreb and the Arab countries to find a solution for this grievance which has caused us important human and economic losses.

On the sidelines of the final meeting, Mohamed Fadhel Khelil, social affairs minister, and Dr al-Baghdadi al-Mahmudi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Health and Social Security, signed an agreement on human resources and social affairs. Mr. Sadok Rabah, national economy minister, and Dr Mohammad Bayt al-Mal, secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning, Trade and Finance, also signed an agreement on the economic and finance committee.

Muqaryif Sees Regime as 'Clinically Dead'

PM2101164593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jan 93 p 6

[Interview with Dr. Muhammad al-Muqaryif, secretary general of the Libyan National Salvation Front, by Bisharah Shirbil and 'Ali al-Ruz in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAYAH] At its national council meeting held in Dallas the [Libyan National] Salvation Front gave strong indications that change in Libya was imminent—something which has not occurred until now.

[Al-Muqaryif] I would like to recall that the strategic paper presented at the council was based on two assumptions: the regime would end within months or the regime would remain in power for a longer period. It was not based on one view that Al-Qadhdhafi would be finished soon. Nevertheless, I personally emphasize that the regime is "clinically" dead and all that remains is the death announcement.

[AL-HAYAH] And are there any palpable facts in this connection?

[Al-Muqaryif] Despite all the efforts the regime has exerted with the parties to the two planes crisis and its attempt to exploit the contradictions among them and to pretend to be willing to cooperate bilaterally on terrorism, the language of the three parties (France, Britain,

and the United States) intensified and a kind of competition began among them in adopting a hard line toward the regime.

[AL-HAYAH] As is known, the Democratic administration in the United States is more conservative than the the Republican administration vis-a-vis foreign moves...

[Al-Muqaryif] You will notice that the Libyan regime's leaks about a "relaxation" in the crisis with Bill Clinton's administration have begun to decline since it has been proved that the new president will follow in the footsteps of the old president in this connection. In fact officials in the new administration have told us that dealings with Libya will go beyond Lockerbie to open the democracy and human rights file.

[Al-HAYAH] If we look at the period of the embargo imposed on Libya, we will find that there has been no qualitative development in the escalation of the international campaign. On the contrary, there are sometimes signals about the possibility of the crisis being resolved. How does this reflect on your moves?

[Al-Muqaryif] Our moves proceed primarily from our own national conviction of the need to change the regime. This has always been our option, even when Arab and world public opinion was not interested in what Al-Qadhdhafi's regime was doing to the Libyan people. As for the developments which occurred at the Arab and international levels, they were a positive and important factor which, in our view, has created a climate which prompts national forces—under the Front's leadership—to make moves more vigorously in order to topple the regime and establish a constitutional alternative. Nevertheless, we did not and will not link our confrontation option to the outcome of matters at the political level.

[AL-HAYAH] The Front disappeared from the political scene late in the eighties then emerged again with the emergence of the two planes crisis...

[Al-Muqaryif] (Interrupting) The Front did not disappear for a day, nor will it disappear as long as it is committed to the Libyan people's issue. To be realistic, what happened was that we paid the price for a number of developments, including the Arab reconciliation slogan announced in 1978 and the change of regime in Chad. But the Front resumed many of its Arab and international relations, and the two planes crisis was bound to make most Arab and international parties feel that the regime has been exposed. As a result, there was a growing desire to renew relations with us, so we responded and several meetings have taken place over the past period.

[AL-HAYAH] What is the map of your present Arab and international alliances?

[Al-Muqaryif] I emphasize that we are bound to all the states concerned with the Libyan issue—be they Arab, African, or European—by cordial relations. They understand the regime's nature and the truth about the people's suffering. And none of these parties really wants al-Qadhdhafi to continue or really supports him.

[AL-HAYAH] What are the parties which asked for the renewal of relations?

[Al-Muqaryif] I prefer to mention nothing about our contacts in this connection.

[AL-HAYAH] And why has the Front in particular been chosen?

[Al-Muqaryif] The signals we have received not only cause us to be optimistic that the outcome of the Libyan issue will be in the Libyan people's interests, but also that the Front will be the main party in toppling the regime. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] What is the truth about 'Abd-al-Majid al-Saghir's pullout from the Front's leading committee?

[Al-Muqaryif] It is not true at all. Brother 'Abd-al-Majid is one of the main combatants. He has abandoned his wish to resign and is currently carrying out his work in the leading committee as usual.

[AL-HAYAH] What about Colonel Khalifah Haftar's meeting with Ahmad Qadhdhaf-al-Damm in Geneva?

[Al-Muqaryif] After the national council meeting we of the leading committee approved a program for moves based on three axes: Affirmation of the will for struggle for the sake of change, utmost exploitation of the Front's international and local achievements, and the rehabilitation of the front's frameworks and elements in order to carry out the requirements of the struggle program and establish a civilized alternative.

In the framework of intensifying the Front's presence in Libyan military and civilian circles, we began some contacts, including with a Libyan Army colonel, to increase our presence inside the country. The contacts were made by Col. Khalifah with another brother. After a long dialogue early last summer in Geneva the Libyan colonel expressed willingness to cooperate with the Front. He requested that the regime provide him with an official cover which would give him the freedom to travel abroad and make contacts with us in the future, by telling al-Qadhdhafi, for example, that he is seeking to win over elements from the Front in preparation for their absorption; and we agreed to this proposal.

At the second meeting held in Geneva at the end of last August Col. Khalifah was surprised when the Libyan officer told him that Ahmad Qadhdhaf-al-Damm was staying at the same hotel and recommended that he should see him as this would be useful in securing the cover he needed to make moves with the Front.

And it concerns me here to emphasize that the Front has a new classification of the regime's elements and knows with whom to deal and with whom not to deal. And

Qadhdhaf-al-Damm and his ilk cannot at all be included in the category of those with whom cooperation can be established.

What is important is that the meeting took place and was a surprise to Qadhdhaf-al-Damm, not Col. Khalifah, because he heard harsh words which we believe he had never heard before in his life about the Libyan people's opinion of the regime.

[AL-HAYAH] What did Qadhdhaf-al-Damm tell Haftar?

[Al-Muqaryif] Qadhdhaf-al-Damm called for rallying around the regime and appealed on the need to open a new page with all Libyans abroad. He pointed out that, if the regime is toppled, the alternative will be 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud and the al-Maqarihah tribes and the tribes allied with it, like al-Warfalah and Awlad Sulayman. Qadhdhaf-al-Damm literally said, "if the present regime remains [in power] for 25 years, these will remain for 50 years."

We of the Front assessed the meeting and the steps taken by the Libyan officer and we sensed that he was not truthful in his orientations and that his aim was to serve Al-Qadhdhafi. Thus we refused to continue the meetings. And according to my information, this officer went with Qadhdhaf-al-Damm to Geneva for a third meeting and stayed there for a full week, but no one contacted them, so they returned to Libya. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] The Front's recent warning about a wave of assassinations abroad was announced after the Haftar-Qadhdhaf-al-Damm meeting.

[Al-Muqaryif] It has nothing to do with the meeting. We have information from more than one source which confirms that an agreement worth a total of $12 million in value has been concluded between al-Qadhdhafi and Mafia elements and U.S. mercenaries to liquidate a number of the Front's elements, among them myself, Col. Khalifah, Haj Ghayth Sayf-al-Nasr, Husayn Safraki, Haj Sabir al-Majid, and others, provided that these operations be carried out quietly and reveal no links with the regime. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Is it true that that you will meet Jean-Louis Bruguiere, the French magistrate examining the blowing up of the UTA plane, and what are the latest developments in the French file in this regard?

[Al-Muqaryif] Yes, I will provide my testimonies before Magistrate Bruguiere in the case concerning the blowing up of the UTA plane. I believe that French investigating organs are looking for the motive behind blowing up the plane. And despite the existence of several probabilities in this connection, I believe the French now believe that the motive behind blowing up the plane was targeting me.

We of the Front had no doubt whatsoever that I was the target, and I have a number of documents which prove that I had been on the flight carried by same plane which was blown up after it left Chad, but I changed the destination at the last moment to attend my daughter's wedding in Cairo. It seems that the regime had no knowledge of my switching flights, or perhaps it could not reprogram the detonation device. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] What is your opinion of the meeting held in Geneva by some opposition factions?

[Al-Muqaryif] We support any serious step by any Libyan—military or civilian—inside or outside the country designed to serve the struggle's principal aim of toppling al-Qadhdhafi. And we bless and support any serious gathering designed to serve this aim, whether we attend it or not, and whether we are invited or not.

[AL-HAYAH] What information do you have about the civilian plane's crash near Tripoli in December?

[Al-Muqaryif] In the light of the information in our possession, we rule out that the accident occurred by fate and divine decree. We also rule out the claim that the plane was downed by a rocket launched from a base at the airport targeting Al-Qadhdhafi's plane, which had arrived from Sabha at 0930 hrs on the same day escorted by a military squadron, although the accident occurred at 10:07 [am or pm not specified]. We firmly believe that what happened is a crime which the regime planned and implemented for special objectives, first and foremost to overshadow the two planes crisis. [passage omitted]

Foreign Liaison Secretary Meets Russian Officials

LD2401143693 Tripoli JANA in English 1421 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Tripoli, A'ina Al-Nar [January] 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation last night met in Tripoli with Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department of the Middle East and Africa Viktor Posovaliok.

The Russian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah attended the meeting.

Sudan

Senegal's Ka Meets With TNA Speaker, RCC Chairman

EA2401210093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Excerpt] This morning Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, will receive the Senegalese foreign minister who arrived in the country on 23 January for a three-day visit and in order to take part in the meetings of the joint Sudan-Senegal ministerial committee. The committee will discuss joint cooperation between the two countries in all fields. [passage omitted]

[Khartoum SUNA in Arabic at 1525 GMT carries further reportage on the visit: "Foreign Minister Djibo Ka has praised Sudan's efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace in all parts of Sudan. He also expressed his country's conviction that the problem of southern Sudan was a political one and not a religious or ethnic one. He said this after being briefed with his delegation by Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, the speaker of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA], about peace efforts, the political system and development efforts. Mr. Djibo Ka stressed his country's interest in a political and an honorable solution, referring at the same time to the respect Sudan enjoyed in the African continent. The Senegalese foreign minister also said that his country would host a conference on national identity and common history of the African Sudanic belt including Senegal, Somalia, and Sudan."

[SUNA at 1530 GMT adds: "Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC and the Council of Ministers, has received a letter from the president of Senegal, Abdou Diouf. This happened this morning when his excellency met at the General Command the foreign minister of Senegal, Mr. Djibo Ka, who is currently visiting the country."]

RCC Chairman Returns From PTA Summit, Comments

EA2201185093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of the Council of Ministers, returned to the country at 1400 today after participating in the Preferential Trade Area [PTA] summit conference in Lusaka. [passage omitted]

On his arrival, his excellency made a statement to the radio reporter in which he spoke of the results of the PTA summit.

[Begin recording] [al-Bashir] [passage omitted] We met African leaders who attended this summit: President Chiluba of Zambia; President Ali Hassan Mwinyi of Tanzania; President Mugabe of Zimbabwe; President Museveni of Uganda; the president of Burundi; the president of Namibia; the prime minister of Swaziland; and the prime minister of Angola. On the way back, we met President Daniel arap Moi.

With all these presidents, bilateral relations and ways of developing them were discussed. Some regional and international issues concerning the African continent were also discussed. In general, this summit was a good opportunity to present our achievements last year—and they received great approval from the African leaders—as well as our experiments in ways of providing food security. [Words indistinct] a pioneering experiment. It was recommended that this experiment be utilized. We can say that this summit performed its task. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified interviewer] President Chiluba submitted an initiative to bring closer the viewpoints of the government and the rebel movement. Does this initiative come within the framework of the Nigerian initiative or does it differ?

[Al-Bashir] All the initiatives and efforts flow within the framework of the Nigerian initiative. In reality, it is a preparation for the second round of the Abuja talks.

[Interviewer] The greatest common denominator of Your Excellency's discussions with the leaders of southern and eastern Africa was peace. What are their views?

[Al-Bashir] Most of the leaders we met expressed readiness to exert their efforts to achieve peace in Sudan. All we asked for is to pressure the rebel movement to sit down to negotiations, because we want negotiations. We can only reach agreement through negotiations. We asked for a continuation of the negotiations. All the heads of the African states that we met agreed to contact and pressure the rebel movement to sit down to talks. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Nasir Group Accuses Garang of Hampering Relief Efforts

EA2101095893 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] The Nasir group [of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army] has accused the rebel John Garang of hampering relief operations in the Kongor area (upper Nile State) which had been agreed upon with the United Nations in Nairobi last November.

In December the World Food Program had begun to transport food to the area where the Nasir group lives. In a statement issued in Nairobi the Nasir group said that the Garang group had arrested a member of the Nasir group, (Tial) Ajak, after attacking Kongor. Elijah Malok, the chairman of Garang's relief association, said his group captured Kongor and drove the Nasir group away from it. The Nasir group attacked Garang and described him as a criminal.

Reports Infighting Among Forces

AB2101214993 London BBC World Service in English 1830 GMT 21 Jan 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] There is apparently more trouble for John Garang of the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army, SPLA. The movement has been falling apart for 18 months. First, dissident commanders set up a Nasir faction of the SPLA. Last year, there were more splits and now the Nasir faction claims there has been fierce fighting among SPLA forces in the far south of Sudan. On the line to Nairobi, Elizabeth Ohene asked Nasir faction's spokesman John Luk, what, according to them had been going on.

[Begin recording] [Luk] Well, as of Sunday [17 January] there has been heavy fighting among the Garang troops and this fighting is still continuing now along the Ugandan border, specifically in the areas of Kajo Kaji, Laso, and Kaia.

[Ohene] Who is fighting who?

[Luk] There is an internal uprising by forces, from Garang's usual forces, but these forces are led by four commanders. There is Commander (Martin Makuralayo), Commander (Kawaye Maquaye), Commander (Wol Aphio), and also Mr. (Martin Macheer). Some of these people were former political detainees, and they had their release, and Garang was keeping them confined. They were not allowed to move anywhere, and eventually they have convinced soldiers there to rise against Garang. This is what happened.

[Ohene] Now, exactly, as far as you can make out, what do they want? What are they aiming at?

[Luk] Specifically, they are calling for John Garang to resign immediately. They accused him of being the one betraying the cause of the people of southern Sudan by continuing to obstruct their efforts to reunite the SPLA, and by continuing to instigate infighting within the SPLA, which is costing a lot of lives.

[Ohene] Are you hoping that this group will come and join your faction or are you planning on going to help them fight Garang?

[Luk] Well, this group, most of them come particularly... [changes thought] some of them are from Bahr al—Ghazal area—an area which has not been active against Garang. Some of them also come from Garang's own home town, Bor area; particularly, people like that (Martin Macheer) guy, who was a founding member of the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] as well as Commander (Kawaye Maquaye]. They are also joining the move against Garang, we are happy. We would be happy to unite with them.

[Ohene] Now, how do you happen to get such detailed knowledge about what is happening, after all this is not your group?

[Luk] It is four days now, and we had somebody coming directly from there, one of our fellows who went there, and he just came yesterday and he gave us this detailed information and the number of people who are involved.

[Ohene] Might it be that you are just inventing all this to stir up problems for Mr. Garang?

[Luk] Well, these are living names, the people we have mentioned. And, I hope most of them are still alive, but these are people who are known. And, this morning, Garang sent a message to his office here in Nairobi and I have a copy of it here. He is asking some of the commanders who came here on either medical treatment or on permission to immediately report to Nimule so that they can join the fight there. I have a clear document that confirms Garang's position, and he has described the situation as very, very, desperate here.

[Ohene] And, you seem to be enjoying his discomfiture.

[Luk] Well, this man is a man who is just hanging on the necks of the people of southern Sudan. In the past one year since the Nasir declaration, everybody is jumping away from him. You know, Nasir left, William Nyuan, so many other senior people, including his spokesmen everywhere, including London. And so, this is somebody who is being deserted by everybody but wants to impose himself and to say he wants to hang on until the last minute. He is very surprising, and I think, he is a very strange personality. [end recording]

Well, John Garang's London spokesman has called us to deny the claims of fighting in the South of Sudan. He says there were some arrests four days ago, but that was all.

TNA Session Focuses on Hala'ib Situation

EA1801212493 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] The Transitional National Assembly [TNA] today held a session behind closed doors with the speaker, Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, in the chair. The session was dedicated to discussing the situation at Hala'ib.

The TNA reviewed all the dimensions of the issue and commended the diplomatic way in which the Foreign Ministry dealt with the issue. The assembly stressed the need to deal with the matter through diplomatic channels and on the basis of the eternal relations between the two fraternal peoples, while emphasizing at the same time the principle of not ceding an inch of the national territory.

The TNA asked for more information about the Hala'ib case to be able to issue a draft law on it. Tomorrow the TNA will resume its discussion of the Hala'ib issue and Sudanese-Egyptian relations in another session behind closed doors.

Memorandum Urges Legal Solution to Hala'ib Issue

EA2201124593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Jan (SUNA)—Foreign Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul has recently sent a memorandum for the U.N. Security Council's chairman refuting the unfounded allegations raised by the Egyptian foreign minister on his message to the Security Council on current January commenting on Sudan's memo to the Security Council on 27th December on Hala'ib issue. [sentence as received]

Sahlul has reviewed in [the] memo Sudan's firm stance concerning [the] Hala'ib issue. The message to the Security Council affirming that Hala'ib issue is a question of

right but not a case based on Sudan's need. [sentence as received] The memorandum explained that Sudan's keenness to preserve progress of the fraternal relations between the two relations. [sentence as received] The memorandum asserted that the Sudan will defend its legitimate right on Hala'ib area by all political and legal means.

Sahlul has affirmed that the recent Egyptians' violation of Sudanese territories was a sheer breach of Sudan's sovereignty and the fundamental principles of the U.N., the international law and international legitimacy.

The foreign minister's memorandum to the Security Council refuted the baseless Egyptian Government's allegation that the Sudan has been instigating problems with a view to undermine the fraternal relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples.

The memorandum, meanwhile, stressed that the conflict on Hala'ib is a legal one and thus it should be solved through the legal methods pertinent to settlement of international conflicts such as negotiations, arbitration of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). According to the memorandum, the military and civil procedure taken by the Egyptian Government at Hala'ib Province represented non-respect of Egypt to the international law and the legal mean for settlement of conflicts. [sentence as received]

Ummah Spokesman Rejects Bargaining Over Egyptian Issue

PM2001100093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jan 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Mubarak al-Mahdi Reveals to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Decision To Eliminate Egyptian Presence in Sudan Was Made at Secret Meeting Headed by al-Turabi"]

[Excerpts] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Mubarak al-Mahdi, the Sudanese Ummah Party's official spokesman abroad, has revealed that a meeting of [National] Islamic Front leaders was held in Khartoum last September. It was headed by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, and at the meeting it was decided to eliminate the Egyptian presence in Sudan and hit Egyptian interests in order to serve their own objectives and strategies compatible with their orientations.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Cairo, Mubarak al-Mahdi said that the implementation of this scheme was deferred until the time was right for its implementation. He pointed out that choosing this timing in particular to liquidate the Egyptian education mission and escalate the Hala'ib issue is designed to fabricate external battles to divert the Sudanese people's attention from the deterioration in economic conditions and the social imbalance caused by the regime in Sudan after the voices of popular discontent and anger have risen.

He added that the Sudanese people strongly reject any bargaining over the eternal relations between the Sudanese and Egyptian peoples. And that they will not keep silent about the Islamic Front's practices toward brothers.

He emphasized that the basic foundations of Egyptian-Sudanese relations cannot be the object of a dispute linked to policy changes and transient disagreements, because these questions are linked to factors which are stronger and deeper than human actions.

Mubarak al-Mahdi added that the integration role of education in the Nile valley began in olden times, and that Sudan still needs the services of Egyptian education and Egyptian capabilities in this sphere. [passage omitted]

He described the practices of Lieutenant General al-Bashir's government toward Egypt as sabotage of the homeland's interests and defiance of the Sudanese people's will.

He considered the present situation in Sudan to be "an indication of the complete collapse of the present regime, which is rejected by the masses in all spheres, political, economic, diplomatic, and military."

He pointed out that there are "signs of unrest and a popular uprising leading to the regime's complete collapse." [passage omitted]

Al-Mirghani Seeks To Pool Opposition Parties' Efforts

PM1901162893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Jan 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Mu'awiyah Yasin: "Al-Mirghani: We Received Assurances From Brothers and Friends Aimed at Settling Sudan Issue"]

[Excerpts] London—Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party opposed to Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir's regime, has said that the efforts of his party members should be pooled with the Democratic National Grouping factions' endeavors aimed at toppling the oppressive (Sudanese) regime which has obstructed the democratic march and harmed relations of neighborliness with fraternal and friendly states.

He added that he had received assurances from quarters he did not name "aimed at settling the issue in the interests of the people of Sudan within the framework of a unified Sudan."

He warned the Sudanese Government that the masses' resistance which "is escalating daily against the forces of arrogance, repression, and terror will intensify until that strange regime disappears, the banners of justice are unfurled, and every claimant obtains his rights."

In a message he addressed to the general conference of his party's branch in Britain, which was held in London the day before yesterday, Al-Mirghani said that among the party's fixed principles are adherence to pluralistic democracy, national unity, and peace as well as respect for Sudanese human rights. He described the party as "the party of the center, which has always been the home of democracy, and the party of the enlightened majority of the masses."

He pointed out that he has made great efforts to persuade the international community to condemn Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's government for violating human rights. He pointed out—without mentioning any details—that he has received "assurances in this connection from friends and brothers."

He said that the UN Commission on Human Rights will hold a conference in Geneva early in February to discuss human right violations in Sudan.

Al-Mirghani, who lives in Cairo, criticized the Sudanese Government's nonparticipation in the conference of foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization states held in Jeddah last month to discuss the situation in the republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina. He condemned Khartoum's position toward Egypt, describing it as "hostile." [passage omitted]

The conference decided to elect 15 party activists to the central committee of the party's branch in Britain. Sayyid Ahmad was elected chairman and 'Umar 'Abdallah secretary general. This is in addition to a number of members; they include: 'Abbas Babakr Khawjali, 'Ala'-al-Din Yahya Abu-al-Qasim, Mar'i Mahjub Muhammad Ahmad, and Taha Ma'ruf. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives Turkish Interior Minister

LD1901192393 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning received at Carthage Palace Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin in the presence of Tunisian Interior Minister Abdallah Kellal and Turkey's ambassador to Tunis. Following the meeting, the minister said he was happy to have met the president and praised Tunisia's level of development.

He stressed his country's determination to further boost the already strong relations of cooperation with Tunisia and wished it more progress and prosperity.

Sezgin, Kallel Discuss Security

TA1901100293 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2100 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin, currently on an official visit to Tunisia, has met with Interior Minister Abdallah Kallel. Cooperation in the field of security and the struggle against terrorism, as well as the development of bilateral relations, was discussed at the meeting. Sezgin will be received by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali tomorrow. Sezgin will also meet with officials of the PLO, which is based in Tunisia. The interior minister will return to Turkey on 20 January.

Ben Ali Emphasizes Need for Cooperation With Libya

LD2201213993 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has reiterated the need to bolster cooperation between Tunisia and the Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah in all spheres in a manner that would consolidate integration between the two countries and meet the aspirations of the two brotherly peoples. The aforementioned was stressed at a meeting between His Excellency Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, who will be leading the Tunisian delegation to the eighth session of the higher Tunisian-Libyan followup committee, due to meet in Tripoli later today, at Carthage Palace this morning.

The head of state asserted the need to focus upon joint ventures between the two countries by closely following up their implementation and the need to bolster the vistas for bilateral cooperation in a manner that will consolidate the two countries' efforts for development. He also asserted the need to bolster the exchange arrangements between them for their mutual benefit, and to bolster the march of the Arab Maghreb Union and Arab joint action. [passage omitted]

Bosnian Minister Explains Conflict, Praises Tunisia

LD1901184693 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic, who is currently visiting Tunisia, has explained that his country is not waging an ethnic war but a war of liberation against the Serbian occupation forces.

The Bosnian minister, who is visiting Tunisia during a tour of North Africa, denied a report that the Bosnian authorities wanted to set up an Islamic regime in Bosnia. He stressed that his country wants to see the rise of a state which has freedom of belief and in which Muslims and Christians coexist.

In a statement to today's LA PRESSE, the Bosnian foreign minister called on Arab states to exercise their influence to strengthen their support for Bosnians and put an end to the atrocities committed against them, which have so far caused the martyrdom of well over 200,000 Muslims.

The Bosnian official praised the appeal made by President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali calling for collective aid for the benefit of children in Bosnia-Hercegovina as well as his courageous and responsible stands in favor of the

Bosnian cause. He also expressed regret at the negative UN stand in dealing with the situation in Bosnia, which encourages the extermination of the Bosnian people.

The Bosnian foreign minister also gave a statement to the EL HORRIA published today, in which he stressed that the Bosnian people fully appreciate the great value of the support of the Tunisian president, government, and people for their cause. He particularly valued the initiative of President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali in standing alongside the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Concerning the talks he held with some officials and bodies in Tunisia, he said that he talked about Tunisian aid in the form of foodstuffs, medicines, clothing, and blankets.

Kuwait

Amir Receives Visiting Turkish Prime Minister

LD2501153893 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Excerpt] At 1315 this afternoon his highness the amir received His Excellency Suleyman Demirel, prime minister of the Turkish Republic, and the delegation accompanying his excellency on the occasion of his visit to the country. The audience was attended by His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Premier Greets Demirel on Arrival

LD2501231093 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Excerpts] In a statement on his arrival, the Turkish prime minister [Suleyman Demirel] said his visit will provide an opportunity for an exchange of views on issues of common interest.

[Begin Demirel recording in Turkish, with superimposed Arabic translation] During this visit, we will have an opportunity to exchange views and hold consultations on bilateral cooperation between the two fraternal countries. The visit will also provide an opportunity for us to exchange views on issues of common interest, whether regional or international.

Stability in the region is very desirable. Since the beginning of the [Kuwait-Iraq] crisis, Turkey has sided with the right. We were happy when the fraternal state of Kuwait was liberated. UN resolutions aim at achieving security and stability in this region. [passage omitted] [end recording]

His highness the heir apparent and prime minister [Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah Al-Salim al-Sabah] replied with a statement welcoming the Turkish prime minister's visit. He said:

[Begin al-Sabah recording] [passage omitted] The Turkish people condemned Iraq's aggression and demanded the withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from all Kuwaiti territory. They also supported the return of legitimate authority to Kuwait.

This stance by Turkey—by the president, government, and people—has been and is still appreciated by all Kuwait's people. Relations between Kuwait and the Republic of Turkey are strong and good. They have been built on the basis of a desire for cooperation and mutual respect.

During this visit by my colleague the Turkish prime minister, I look forward to more talks, an exchange of views and consultations about all matters of concern for the two fraternal countries, and the fraternal and friendly countries in this region.

No doubt there are international as well as regional and Gulf issues that will be covered during his excellency's visit, in order that we can reach a formula or formulae for these issues.

In Kuwait, we have a sincere desire and great enthusiasm for cooperation in all fields with our brothers in the Republic of Turkey, as we believe that this cooperation will bring great benefit and prosperity for the two friendly countries. Thank you. [end recording]

Demirel Continues Contacts

TA2501195793 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Report by Kandemir Alpan from Kuwait]

[Text] Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, who left Ankara on an official visit to Kuwait today, was received by Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah around noon today. Attending the meeting were Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, State Minister Cavit Caglar, and Agriculture and Village Affairs Minister Necmettin Cevheri. Bosnia-Hercegovina, the latest situation in the Gulf, Azerbaijan, and the Karabakh problem, as well as bilateral relations were discussed during the meeting. Other international issues were also mentioned.

The Kuwaiti amir expressed his gratitude to Demirel on Turkey's determined attitude and assistance during the Gulf crisis and war. The problem is not yet over, the Kuwaiti amir said, adding that Iraq continues to threaten the security of the Gulf. He expressed the belief that Turkey's positive stand on the matter will continue in the future as well.

Demirel, in turn, conveyed to the amir his views concerning the difficulties experienced in Bosnia-Hercegovina and asked for help and support in the international arena on this subject.

After the meeting, Demirel attended a luncheon hosted in his honor by the Kuwaiti amir. In the afternoon, he toured an open-air museum displaying scrap warfare left over from the Gulf war. Tanks, artillery, armored personnel carriers, anti-aircraft weapons, and shore patrol boats abandoned by Iraq after the war are exhibited in the museum.

In a statement here, the prime minister explained that Iraq purchased weapons from the Soviet Union with oil revenues of $80 billion, drove its army into Kuwait with 5,000 tanks after a 10-year-old war, but did not succeed because it confronted the whole world. Demirel said: Saddam would have done better if he had spent that $80 billion to benefit his own people's prosperity and the future of mankind, rather than leave it here as scrap metal. Stressing that the Gulf war was the briefest war in the world, Demirel noted: Everything was over within three hours.

Demirel then toured two houses, where the initial resistance was staged during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and which were later transformed into museums. The pictures of those killed here are displayed in the ruined houses.

Asked to comment on the interpellation proposals submitted against the government on Iraq, Demirel pointed out the ruins and said: If this man is finished, then what are those missiles doing in the north [of Iraq] against Turkey? Did Turkey do a bad thing by rendering those missiles ineffective? Should we wait until we reach this state? We are taking measures, and they [the opposition] submit interpellations. I ask them: What are you in favor of? Whose side are you on?

Demirel also toured the towers which symbolize Kuwait. Meanwhile, Cetin held a bilateral meeting with Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister. The Kuwaiti foreign minister was then received by Demirel. International issues were reviewed during the meeting.

Demirel is now attending a dinner hosted in his honor by Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah.

Official Talks Begin

LD2601114093 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] At 0900 this morning His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, received in his office in Bayan Palace His Excellency the Prime Minister of Turkey Mr. Suleyman Demirel, and the delegation accompanying him.

At 0915, joint talks between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Turkey were held in which His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah headed the Kuwaiti side, while Mr. Suleyman Demirel headed the Turkish side.

The talks were attended from the Kuwaiti side by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, adviser to the heir apparent and prime minister; Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan, minister of finance and planning and head of the honorary mission; 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dakhil 'Abdallah al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs; and Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, deputy minister of foreign affairs.

The talks were attended from the Turkish side by His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs Hikmet Cetin; His Excellency the Minister of State Cavit Caglar; His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Necmettin Cevheri; His Excellency the Turkish Ambassador to the State of Kuwait Mehmet Nury Ezer; and a number of high-ranking officials in the visiting delegation.

The talks concentrated on the strong links existing between the two Islamic and fraternal countries, and the means to strengthen their constructive cooperation in the different spheres, in addition to other issues of common interest.

Qatar

Venezuelan Minister Delivers Message to Amir

JN2501150793 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Doha, 25 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, today received a written message from Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, on ways to bolster relations of friendship and cooperation, and other issues of mutual interest, especially international oil developments.

The message was delivered to the amir of Qatar today by Venezuelan Minister of Energy and Mines and current OPEC Chairman Olirio Parra, who is visiting Doha.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Receives Thanks From Palestinian Leaders

LD2501222593 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text of cable received by King Fahd from the leaders of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Custodian of the two holy mosques, may God glorify you with His support. Peace, and may God's mercy, and blessing be upon you.

From our masses who are steadfast in the face of injustice and who are struggling against occupation, from the arenas of the intifadah, from the dungeons of detention centers and prisons, which witness the torture of our sons and daughters, we send you, O Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and to your loyal crown prince, His Royal Highness the second Deputy Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, to His Royal Highness Amir Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and to all the members of the royal family, your wise government, and your loyal people, we send you from the heart of Palestine, from the courtyard of the Al-Aqsa prison, from the arena in which our youth chase the soldiers of the occupation, the thanks and appreciation that you deserve for what you exert for the sake of God in support of our rights, the consolidation of our struggle, and the strengthening of our unity. Our admiration for you at this phase reflects the extent of our belief that you are, like us, the owner of the rights and the cause, and we aspire with certainty that the hand of the kingdom will continue to back our cause and look after our sons who reside in your good country and protect them from loss. You are the most informed about what our sons suffer and you are the most eager to protect them.

May God grant you success and prolong your life. We shall maintain our steadfastness and struggle until the flags of Islam and liberation flutter in Jerusalem, so that we may all enter Al-Aqsa with you, God willing.

[Signed] In their name, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Faysal Al- Husayni, and Dr. Hanan Ashrawi.

King Fahd Response

LD2501222693 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text of reply cable by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd to leaders of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks]

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Shaykh Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi.

Blessed greetings,

We received your cable to us on the occasion of the anniversary of the start of the glorious Palestinian revolution. While we thank you and thank all our Palestinian steadfast mujahidin for the good sentiments you have expressed, we confirm to you that we shall, God willing, as we always have, continue to make every effort in support of our brothers, the mujahidin, and the consolidation of their unity, to enable them to recover their right and liberate their land and holy places.

As to the brother resident Palestinians, they are among their brothers, and receive care and attention. May God guide us to all that is good.

[Signed] Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Iran, Iraq, Mideast Seen as Big Issues for Clinton

PM2501153593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jan 93 p 10

[Ghassan Shirbil article: "Iraq, Iran, and Peace—Three Complex Files Facing Clinton"]

[Text] New U.S. President Bill Clinton's pledge that the United States will continue to play its leading role in the world disproves the scenarios about an inward-looking President deeply preoccupied with the U.S. economy and its problems. Clinton's talk of a world "more free and less stable" after the collapse of communism is an indication of the difficult leadership role required.

If we overlook the distant fires where the United States has to play the part of fireman, there are three difficult files which Clinton has to tackle in the Middle East: Iraq, Iran, and the Arab-Israeli conflict, three issues which cannot be completely separated from one another.

On the first file, some reactions to the missile attack on a target near Baghdad show that the Clinton administration needs to reconsider its position regarding the Iraqi regime. That means redefining the limits of the mandate based on the UN resolutions and the basis on which the international coalition can continue, drawing a distinction between the confrontation between the Security Council and Iraq on the one hand and the United States and Iraq on the other. The U.S. Administration must decide whether bringing down Saddam Husayn's regime is a precondition for normal relations with Iraq, or whether Iraq's full compliance with the UN resolutions would be sufficient. In the recent confrontation with the Bush administration and the "goodwill" gesture toward the new administration, the Iraqi leadership's aim was to have the toppling of the regime excluded from the likely new [U.S.] targets.

The truth is that a final redefinition of the position on Iraq is not possible without taking Iran into consideration. Iran obviously believes that any change that would return Iraq to the Arab and the international folds would upset the new balanace which emerged after the Iraqi regime's adventure which isolated Iraq. In the Iraq-Turkey-Iran triangle, the balances seem to be extremely delicate, with the historical sensitivities of the past never far from the burdens of the present and the possibilities of the future.

The Clinton administration must, therefore, also redefine the U.S. position on Iran, which still presents itself as a power opposed to the logic of the new world order in the region. There will obviously be an increasing conflict between the policy of the new U.S. Administration and Iran's attempt to become a regional superpower relying on the policy of exporting its own model, perhaps a modified model, and becoming a military arsenal with nuclear ambitions. Acknowledging something for Iran is one thing and accepting the role it requests and seeks to play is quite another.

The third issue which the U.S. Administration must face is the Arab-Israeli conflict. The despair generated by the continuation of that conflict is what made it possible for the states aspiring to be local superpowers to exploit Palestinian slogans and the people's frustration in their attempt to overturn the equilibrium and stability. Successful tackling of that file necessitates rescue of the peace negotiations and boosting them to the point of providing the minimum necessary prerequisites for a comprehensive peace, which calls for a U.S. concept of the limits of Israel's role and the actual needs of its security, provided it is not at the expense of the rights of others.

These are three complex files in a complex region, but progress toward just peace would give the Clinton administration the chance to deal effectively with the various arsenals and roles. A redefinition of the Middle East map would require attention to the historical factor and the ability of the people of this region to resist the middle-of-the-road logic. It is clearer in this region than any other that the collapse of communism does not mean the end of the problems. A vacuum usually attracts adventure and adventurers. That is why the Clinton administration is required to quickly provide the answers to some extremely difficult questions in a world more free and less stable.

Cabinet Discusses International Affairs

LD2501210293 Riyadh SPA in English 1956 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 25, SPA—Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defence and Aviation and Inspector General Prince

Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz presided over the weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers here on Monday [25 January].

After the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA the council had reviewed a summary of a report on the most important Arab and international political and military developments during the past 24 hours.

Prince Sultan briefed the council on the situation in Afghanistan and pointed to the reports carried by the mass media on the Islamic brotherly call of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to the leaders of Afghan jihad as well as the monarch's constant efforts to bring peace to Kabul and other Afghan territories.

Turning to the situation in Bosnia, Prince Sultan pointed to the intensive efforts exerted by the kingdom on Arab, Islamic and international levels to save the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina from Serbian aggression and the continued airlift of Saudi relief aid to the former Yugoslav Republic.

Al-Sha'ir said Prince Sultan applauded the services extended by the Saudi force participating in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia in accordance with the directives of King Fahd and pointed to their missions—namely to secure relief aid to remote villages and towns and extending medical assistance to Somalis.

The council reviewed some local issues on the agenda and Prince Sultan listened to the views of concerned ministers about these issues.

The council approved the cooperation agreement in the field of veterinary services between the kingdom and the Arab Republic of Egypt according to the formula attached to the decision and agreed to set the annual costs at SR. [Saudi riyals] 9 million for five years.

It also approved 14th administrative grade appointments in the Ministries of the Interior, Labour and Social Affairs and the general presidency of Islamic Research, IFTA, propagation and guidance.

King's Appeal to Afghanistan's Mojahedin Viewed

LD2501134593 Riyadh SPA in English 1223 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Riyadh, Jan. 25, SPA—The Afghan political circles received with deep satisfaction and appreciation the call made by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz on Friday [22 January] to leaders of Afghan mojahedin in which he appealed to them in the name of Islam to lay down their arms, listen to the voice of reasoning and logic and spare Muslims blood in Afghanistan.

They paid great attention to the sincere invitation made by the Saudi monarch to the Afghan mojahedin leaders to meet in the Kingdom to discuss views and points of differences in order to reach a settlement of their dispute.

Professor Borhannodin Rabbani, head of the state of Afghanistan, welcomed the sincere Islamic call and expressed his readiness to respond to this call.

In a press statement published yesterday, Rabbani said the appeal of King Fahd has emanated from the heart of a true Muslim leader and was in line the Kingdom keenness over preserving the accomplishments of Afghan mojahedin.

"King Fahd is always keen on the affairs of Muslims in general and the affairs of Afghan mojahedin in particular," Rabbani said.

Rabbani said the Kingdom, king, government and people, had always supported the Islamic jihad in Afghanistan and is still paying due attention and following up with concern the daily events in Afghanistan. He said King Fahd is enjoying the respect of all Afghan mojahedin.

For its part, the Islamic Party under the leadership of Golboddin Hekmatyar, welcomed the call of King Fahd and his invitation to the Afghan leaders to meet in the Kingdom.

The Islamic Party's Vice Chairman Mohammed Amin Waqad said the party welcomes the call of King Fahd and is pleased to join in any meeting to be held in the Kingdom.

Waqad praised the honorable fraternal stands of the Kingdom's leadership, government and people in support of their Afghan brethren.

Meanwhile, Arab and international media highlighted the call of King Fahd for putting an end to fighting in Afghanistan in order to spare Muslim blood.

The media noted his invitation to Afghan mojahedin leaders to meet in the Kingdom to settle their differences.

The Pakistani radio and television underlined the historic peace call made by the Saudi monarch to the leaders of Afghan mojahedin.

The Pakistani English and Urdu language newspapers gave frontpage coverage to the historic call of King Fahd.

The French press agency (AFP) referred to the call of King Fahd to Afghan mojahedin to stop fighting among themselves and said the Saudi monarch has sent envoys to the Afghan leaders.

REUTERS news agency noted that the Kingdom has been one of the major backers of the Afghan mojahedin during their 14 years old war against Kabul regime.

Commenting on the call, the ASSOCIATED PRESS noted also the Kingdom support to the Afghan mojahedin and its recognition of the interim government of the Afghan mojahedin which had been formed after the withdrawal of the communist forces.

Saddam Chairs Meeting Attended by Military Officials

JN2401120593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1151 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jan (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, today chaired a meeting that included Staff Lieutenant General Fighter Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president and supervisor of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO]; Engineer Lieutenant General Fighter 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, MIO director; Staff Lieutenant General Pilot Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense; and a number of senior Air Force and Air Defense officers.

Meets Air Force Commander

JN2501151293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1505 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Staff Field Marshal leader President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has met with Air Force Staff Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense, and a number of officers at the Air Force and Air Defense Headquarters.

Talks With Senior Officers

JN2501170893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1705 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has chaired a meeting attended by Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council vice chairman and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces; Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister; a number of senior officers; the Air Force and Air Defense command; and a number of valiant pilots.

President Orders Reconstruction of Firm Bombed 17 Jan

JN2401130793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0857 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jan (INA)—Specialized technical teams from the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO] have begun a major campaign to reconstruct the Al-Nida' State Enterprise for manufacturing molds, which was hit by several missiles on the night of 17 January.

Engineer Yahya Nasif Jasim al-Juburi, director general of the enterprise, told AL-THAWRAH today: We have been instructed by President Saddam Husayn to reconstruct the enterprise and make it better than it was before.

The reconstruction teams of the MIO mujahidin have begun to implement the project, named by the president as the project of loftiness. Al-Juburi added that work has been divided into five parts, the first of which involves the reconstruction of the production machines and equipment by our own enterprise, in coordination with other enterprises. The second part involves the reconstruction of the support beams by the State Enterprise for Industrial Projects. The work also involves three civil engineering reconstruction projects which will be implemented on a competitive basis by the al-Riyad Projects Department and the al-Hilal Projects Department of the al-Faw State Enterprise, on the one hand, and the State Enterprise for Industrial Projects on the other.

Asked why the aggressors targeted the enterprise with such intensity, al-Juburi asserted that the basic objective was undoubtedly to harm Iraq's industrial progress and destroy its industrial infrastructure since molds constitute the basis of industry in all countries.

Concluding his statement to AL-THAWRAH, al-Juburi pointed out that the inspection teams had already paid five visits to the enterprise and were acquainted with all of its products and capabilities. The work of this civil enterprise, he said, was evident to these teams, which did not destroy any of its machines or equipment.

Assembly Speaker Praises Russia's Stand

JN2601125393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has praised the recent Russian stand toward any new aggression against Iraq.

In an interview published by the French paper LE FIGARO today, Sa'di Mahdi Salih expressed Iraq's satisfaction with the stand of Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, who said that his country will resort to its veto right at the Security Council if it decides to carry out a new military action against Iraq.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih said that Russia should have adopted this stand a long time before the aggression was carried out by the United States, France, and Britain against Iraq.

A press statement published in London on 24 January and broadcast on Moscow television cited the Russian vice president as urging a peaceful political settlement to the dispute between Iraq and the United States, and excluding recourse to military solutions and interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

Russia's ambassador to the United Nations also urged using Russia's weight, considering that it is a permanent Security Council member with the right of veto, to prevent a new confrontation between Iraq and the United States.

Yeltsin's Remarks Cited

JN2601095993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has called for initiating a dialogue between the United States and Iraq. The INA correspondent in Moscow cited President Yeltsin as saying at a news conference in the Kremlin today: We believe that the ideal way to solve outstanding problems is to hold a quiet political dialogue with Iraq. During his press conference, Yeltsin pointed out that he discussed this approach with U.S. President Bill Clinton in a telephone conversation with him on Saturday. He added that he found the U.S. President inclined to follow such a policy in the near future.

In a related development, Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy called in a statement broadcast on Moscow television for a peaceful political settlement of the Iraq-U.S. conflict and for the exclusion of military solutions and the policy of interfering in Iraq's internal affairs. In his statement, Rutskoy urged Russia's UN representative to propose political dialogue between Iraq and the United States. He also urged him to use the weight of Russia, as a permanent UN Security Council member enjoying the right of veto, to avoid a new Iraq-U.S. confrontation.

Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, supreme commander of the CIS forces, today denounced the U.S. air raids on Iraq. In statements in Moscow, he asserted that the peaceful solutions were not discussed nor used to resume relations with Iraq. [sentence as heard] He added: I believe that not all means were used to achieve peace in the Gulf region. The United Nations and the Security Council could have made some initiatives in this direction.

Regime Gives Names of 90 Percent of Foreign Arms Sources

NC2501162093 Paris AFP in English 1546 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 25 (AFP) - Iraq says it has provided the United Nations with 90 percent of the names of foreign suppliers of its nuclear programme, UN nuclear expert Maurizio Zifferero said Monday.

Zifferero, head of an eight-member team of nuclear experts who arrived Monday, said his mission here would focus on confirming that the Iraqis had disclosed the names.

"The Iraqis said that we have already been supplied with 90 percent" of the names," said the Italian expert from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

He added: "They affirmed that there's still ten percent missing.

"Last time (in December) they volunteered to answer questions. We shall see if they will. We will question them again and again."

Iraq has to reveal the foreign suppliers for its nuclear programme in line with UN Gulf war ceasefire resolutions but so far has refused to identify all of them.

Japanese Involved

OW2601011693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0039 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 25 KYODO—The Italian head of a U.N. nuclear inspection team said Monday several Japanese corporations have been involved in Iraq's nuclear development program.

Maurizio Zifferero, who flew to Baghdad on Monday as head of the eight-member team, however, stopped short of identifiying the companies. He also did not mention what the Japanese companies supplied to Iraq.

Zifferero, deputy head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that the IAEA's inspection reports on Iraqi nuclear facilities have mentioned the Japanese companies.

Minister Condemns Tokyo for Stance Against Baghdad

OW2501023993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0143 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 24 KYODO— Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih accused Japan on Sunday of following, out of fear, the administration of former U.S. President George Bush in blocking even Iraq's purchase of food and medicines.

The minister told reporters that the items are not subject to the United Nations-imposed economic sanctions. Japan, he said, is afraid of the United States, as is France.

Iraq was allowed to use 250 million dollars of its embargoed overseas assets to purchase food and medicines from Spain and Italy last year, he said.

But France barred exports, even of milk, for political reasons, the minister said.

A lack of medicines has led to the deaths of thousands of children and senior citizens, and this cannot be justified, he said.

The minister called for lifting of the economic sanctions, which are not in the Western interest because the world economy needs Iraqi oil.

Iraq has the second-highest amount of oil deposits in the world and can produce more longer than even Saudi Arabia, he added.

U.S. Aircraft 'Violations' 12-19 Jan Protested

JN2501144593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 12500 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jan (INA)—Iraq has informed the United Nations of continued violations of its airspace by U.S. aircraft for purposes of surveillance, provocation, and aggression against Iraq.

In a memorandum he sent yesterday to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's UN envoy said that between 12 and 19 January, U.S. aircraft violated Iraqi airspace in 968 sorties over various parts of Iraq and at varying speeds and altitudes.

The memorandum explained that U.S. AWAC, F-4, F-14, F-15, and F-16 aircraft carried out 289 sorties over the areas of Mosul, Irbil Tall 'Afar, Zakho, Dahuk, al-'Amadiyah, 'Ayn Zalah, and Dukan in northern Iraq and 679 sorties over the areas of al-Samawah, al- Salman, al-Nasiriyah, al-Shatrah, al-Qurnah, al-Diwaniyah, al- Busayyah, al-Basrah, al-'Amarah, Ishbihah, Qal'at Salih, al-Rattwi, al-Ma'aniyah, al-Najaf, al-Halabiyah, and al-Hadar in southern Iraq.

The memorandum pointed out that on 13 January hostile U.S. aircraft launched a fresh attack against Iraq which resulted in the martyrdom of one military man and three civilians and the injury of three military men and four civilians when these aircraft raided a housing complex that has a number of inhabited houses near the petrochemical complex in al-Basrah Governorate.

Arab League Informed

JN2501163393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jan (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League that American, British, and French aircraft have continued to violate Iraqi airspace from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Iraq's permanent representative at the Arab League informed Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, in a message addressed to him yesterday, that these aircraft violated Iraqi airspace on 22 January from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and carried out 82 hostile sorties.

Iraq's permanent representative said in his message that the American, British, and French aircraft carried out 76 sorties from their bases in Saudi Arabia and six sorties from their bases in Kuwait.

Iraq's representative noted that this violation constitutes a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

Iraq's representative attached to his message a detailed list of these violations. He noted that the Iraqi Government wants to inform the Arab League secretary general and all Arab countries of these regrettable facts. He also asked the secretary general to distribute the message to the Arab League member states.

'New Relations' With U.S. Sought

NC2201131693 Paris AFP in English 1249 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By Farouk Choukri]

[Excerpts] Baghdad, Jan 22 (AFP)—Iraq pledged Friday to strive for better ties with the United States despite the latest U.S. air strike, while U.N. arms inspectors tested Baghdad's will to respect the terms of the Gulf War cease-fire.

The official newspaper AL-THAWRAH stressed Baghdad was seeking "new relations" with Washington based on "respect for the will of Iraqis to have the regime they want."

"We want to see President (Bill) Clinton ... remove the spectre of war and establish good links with the (region's) peoples," it quoted the head of Iraq's parliamentary committee on foreign affairs, Safa'a Salih al-'Umar, as saying.

Baghdad newspapers avoided comment on Thursday's U.S. air strike in the north of the country, in what a Gulf diplomat described as an effort "to calm things down with the Americans."

They referred solely to the government statement that although the raid was "aggressive and provocative," Iraq would stick to its cease-fire, in effect since Wednesday, as a gesture toward the new U.S. president. [passage omitted]

In a test of Iraq's will as tensions eased, U.N. arms inspectors began work Friday on destroying Iraq's stockpiles of chemical weapons, a day after the resumption of the U.N. mission to disarm post-war Iraq.

Paul Brough, an American leading a team of 12 chemical experts, left Baghdad saying they were to visit al-Muthanna, the site 130 kilometres (80 miles) northwest of the capital where the arms have been stockpiled.

A second U.N. weapons team was meanwhile headed for Baghdad as the Iraqi authorities escorted foreign correspondents to inspect the damage from the U.S. air attack over northern Iraq.

Nineteen U.N. arms inspectors, including more chemical experts, travelled to the Iraqi capital from Bahrain, a base of the U.N. special commission charged with disarming Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War. [passage omitted]

Columnist Optimistic of Solution Under Clinton

JN2601121693 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Jan 93 p 3

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "An Opinion on the New U.S. Administration"]

[Excerpts] The Revolution Command Council's cease-fire initiative is military in form but political in content.

It is a gesture of goodwill toward new U.S. President Bill Clinton, as well as something that will ease the situation in the region because both parties, Iraq and the new President, are interested in achieving this. Such an easing will lead to multiple options for the initiation of a dialogue to begin settling the problems that have surfaced between Iraq and the United States.

Thus, we can assume that the initiative in the foreseeable future could become a platform for securing the necesary conditions for the settlement of the problem from its very roots. Those who study Clinton's election platform and the priorities he has set for himself realize that the United States in view of its domestic problems, particularly the economic crisis, is forced to reduce expenditures and avoid any policy on the domestic and foreign level that could deplete revenues and resources. This means that Bush's policy based on an exaggerated involvement abroad and the forceful imposition of hegemony has been a prohibitive policy, not practical, and conflicts with the requirements of reforms on the domestic level. [passage omitted]

Therefore, the domestic situation in the United States favors the adoption of a rational foreign policy and an understanding of the complexities of our world, including our region.

Another point that encourages us to say that Clinton will opt for dialogue with Iraq after an appropriate period of time and the necessary preparations is because former President Bush used the military, technical, financial and human potentials of the United States and its allies against Iraq to the hilt, and failed. This failure will certainly make Clinton draw a realistic lesson, that military means and the use of force against Iraq are useless and that dialogue and the language of mutual interests are the only two means for attaining stability and security in the Arabian Gulf and other areas in the world. For its part, as the initiative has demonstrated, Iraq is ready for dialogue and for settling problems on the basis of mutual respect and the nonencroachment on Iraq and its sovereignty. This talk is based on declared stands.

One of Clinton's advisers stated on the morning of his victory on 4 November 1991 [as published] that one of the most important challenges facing Clinton in 1993 is the settlement of a problem called Iraq. It has been noticed that Clinton avoided any provocative statements against Iraq.

At the climax of the recent aggression against Iraq we heard his famous statement in which he said: I am ready to open a new page with Iraq. This policy completely differs from Bush's policy which used to slam all doors in Iraq's face.

It is true that after this Clinton made tough statements but his famous statement had been a message to former President Bush and to Iraq. It was as if he wanted to tell Bush: Do not close the doors to a peaceful settlement between me and Iraq. You are leaving but I am coming. It seems he wanted to tell Iraq that the next stage will be one of persistent work to settle problems in a manner different from the Bush solutions.

Thus, we can deduce that thanks to its steadfastness, its commitment to principles, and its flexibility Iraq has succeeded in securing the requisites of a peaceful solution to the region's problems in the Arabian Gulf. Of course, these solutions will only be a step toward tackling the other problems in the region.

I hope this will not make people rush into believing that the solution will take place tomorrow. We have to be patient, waiting for a month or perhaps even more than a year to reach many phased solutions.

INA Editor Ponders Reasons Behind Incidents

JN2401152493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1318 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jan (INA)—Commenting on what was declared by an unnamed Pentagon spokesman on 20 January 1993 to the effect that a U.S. aircraft had fired a HARM missile at an Iraqi air defense radar south of the city of Mosul which locked onto the U.S. F-4G aircraft that was protecting a French reconnaissance plane, the INA political editor said: In fact, there was no air defense missile base but an ordinary general search radar; in addition, the U.S. aircraft did not fire a missile, but dropped a cluster bomb container 3 km from the radar site. The French authorities then denied that the Iraqi radar had locked onto the French aircraft.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman descried the incident as aggression and as a provocation, stressing Iraq's commitment to the cease-fire declared by the Revolution Command Council [RCC] on 19 January.

On 22 January 1993, an announcement was made in the same strange way that a U.S. aircraft fired two HARM missiles at a SAM-3 missile base east of Mosul and that the two missiles missed their targets.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman then reaffirmed that there was no SAM-3 missile base, or any other base, east of Mosul and that what was announced in Washington was unfounded.

He also affirmed that Iraq was still committed to the cease-fire declared on 19 January 1993. The INA political editor said today: For the third time, a U.S. Marine Corps spokesman, who declined to be named, alleged that three U.S. aircraft were fired on in southern Iraq at 0100 [2200 GMT] and that the aircraft responded by dropping a bomb.

He recalled the Foreign Ministry spokesman's confirmation that the Iraqi air defenses were committed to the cease-fire and that they did not fire at any U.S. aircraft.

The RCC announced its decision on 19 January in which it made a goodwill gesture toward new U.S. President Bill Clinton, with the purpose of giving the new U.S.

Administration enough chance to study the issue of the unilateral, illegitimate no-fly zone and to understand the other issues, especially the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. The statement pointed out that the coming months will be enough to study these matters.

When Iraq decided to cease fire, it knew the meaning of that decision in terms of morality and credibility. Therefore, it will not need crooked ways if it wants to protect its airspace once again from violations. What are the meanings of these reports, and who is disseminating them? Are they spread by the remnants of the Bush administration, who want to push the U.S. Administration toward a military clash with Iraq, to involve the new U.S. Administration in the same blind aggressive policy of the former administration, and to push matters in the opposite direction of the spirit of our decision in order to undermine the new administration's chance of reaching an understanding in a noncombatant atmosphere?

The INA political editor wondered: Are these elements trying to show that the former administration was not the only one that was taking a criminal course against oppressed nations, but that the new administration shares in this course? This will confuse the new administration and will make it difficult for it to distinguish the best way. As a result, the new administration will lose its way and its desire for peace and for a balanced treatment based on mutual respect rather than on terrorism and destruction.

The political editor said: We dealt with these provocations and acts of aggression with a high degree of self-restraint, but we do not know how long this game will affect the new administration and whether what is taking place is unknown to this administration or is premeditated.

'Substantially Different' U.S. Policy Hoped for

JN2501121293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jan (INA)—An Iraqi paper has asserted that Iraq's peaceful initiative under the current international changes has exposed the deception and lies against Iraq's right and stand toward world peace and security.

In an article today, AL-QADISIYAH says that the peaceful program proposed by Iraq stems from a substantive understanding of the conflict between right, represented by Iraq, and falsehood and brute force, represented by the evil coalition, which has begun to fall and crumble. The paper explains the numerous reasons for this downfall, foremost being Iraq's principled steadfastness, clear rights, and fair cause. Another reason is the departure of defeated Bush, the sick criminal of this age, after the brave Iraqis had hammered the last nail into his coffin, which headed for the dustbin of history.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: Today, the world is witnessing signs of protest and resentment on the official and public levels owing to the injustice done to Iraq, as well as the policy of aggression and brute force, and the unfair and unjustified blockade. The paper affirms that a new equation has emerged and a new understanding has evolved to the effect that the states of aggression, led by the United States, should abandon the policy of force, which did not serve their objectives. Moreover, they should not continue to ignore public opinion.

The paper adds: After Iraq has proposed its peaceful program, the decisionmakers on the other side should seek a comprehensive understanding of all issues. Their behavior also should be characterized by renovation and seriousness, and they should get rid of all the remnants of the former administration of the war criminal Bush.

AL-QADISIYAH expects the new U.S. Administration, led by Mr. Bill Clinton, to be substantially different from the Bush administration. This is because Bush adopted a barbaric hostile policy toward Iraq based on personal whim, whereas the new President has no problems with Iraq nor does he suffer from any complexes in this regard. The paper recalls Bill Clinton's victory in the U.S. presidential campaign, adding that Clinton's slogans were based on renovation, logic, and solution of problems through international legitimacy and law and a thorough understanding of world problems.

In conclusion, AL-QADISIYAH says: Given all this, and according to observers, Iraq has done what is necessary and positive; it has given new evidence of its serious desire for peace and dialogue. This in itself is a real gain and an expression of good faith.

Aspin's Statement Termed 'Ridiculous, Disgusting'

JN2601093493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA)—An Iraqi writer has said that the statement made by U.S. Secretary of Defense Les Aspin yesterday is both ridiculous and disgusting.

In an article published by AL-JUMHURIYAH today, Qasim Hamrudi said that the master of the Pentagon is once again deliberately mixing up Security Council resolutions and Washington's failed wishes.

He added: It is clear that U.S. hegemony over the Security Council has turned it into an international body only in form, with a U.S. content, especially during the Gulf crisis and the unjust 30-state aggression against Iraq.

He noted the courageous peaceful initiative launched by the Revolution Command Council, from a position of strength on the hot battlefield, proceeding from absolute faith in objective, peaceful dialogue. He adds: Iraq's generous initiative has stopped adventurers and warmongers in their tracks, considering that those people view brute aggression as a guarantee of their illegitimate imperialist interests.

He added: Despite Iraq's unilateral goodwill initiative and constant assertion that it is committed to its initiative, the bats that are conspiring in the darkness of U.S. corridors do not wish to see things take their normal course and receive the attention and examination and understanding they merit, leading to turning over a new leaf in Iraqi-U.S. relations, based on equality, respect, and legitimate interests.

The writer says that war criminal Bush tried his bad luck for over two years and resorted to a treacherous military aggression, a savage and ugly blockade, plotting and partition, and employing contemptible, servile cliques of agents. Despite all this, his skull was smashed on the rock of steadfastness of the genuine, loyal people of Saddam Husayn.

The writer wonders: Why does Aspin want to go through the same dark tunnel? The statement by the U.S. secretary of defense, the writer adds, confirms an obvious truth, namely, that the crisis fabricated by Washington and its allies in London and Paris has nothing to do with the United Nations and the resolutions of international legitimacy, and that this crisis is a living embodiment of a tendentious, conspiratorial political scheme aimed at toppling the nationalist regime in Iraq, whose legendary steadfastness, reconstruction drive, and solid unity have become a thorn in the side of the hostile coalition.

AL-QADISIYAH Affirms Commitment to Cease-Fire

JN2601111593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has affirmed that Iraq has emerged from the last confrontation stronger and with more influence on Arab and world public opinion.

In an article today, the paper, which speaks for the Defense Ministry, said that Iraq's respect for the cease-fire decision is in line with a studied principled, ethical, and political commitment. The cease-fire decision was absolutely not motivated by weakness in Iraqi military performance or hesitation to fight.

The aggression states—America, France, Britain—and Saudi Arabia as well, know Iraq's capability. They have indeed tested it. They also know the great sacrifices that Iraq has offered to safeguard its dignity, principles, and sovereignty.

The paper also discusses the recent provocations made by U.S. aircraft against Iraq, noting: If U.S. field commanders and their counterparts at the Central Intelligence Agency still retain the oral and written instructions of damnable Bush to strike at and provoke Iraq, so as to make it do something contrary to its unilateral cease-fire commitment and thus have another chance to commit a new aggressive act, then these commanders and their counterparts are under a great delusion.

The paper asserts that the "small ones" of the remnants of Bush can never make Iraq violate its commitments, especially since it has emerged from the recent confrontation stronger.

The paper stresses that the aggression against Iraq represented only the grudge and compelling criminal desire that filled damnable Bush's heart and the hearts of his assistants, after Iraq emerged stronger from the fiercest military aggression against a Third World nation in contemporary history.

The paper goes on to say that the cluster bombs dropped by the aircraft of criminal Bush south of Mosul several days ago reveal the aggressiveness still harbored by Bush's field commanders. The bombs also reveal that they did not target the alleged radar because they did not use anti-radar missiles, but used cluster bombs which the whole world knows are used against persons.

The paper emphasizes that those people should recalculate and not think that the 20th century world knows nothing about their aggressive acts. They should know that the 21st century is for humanity at large, whether they like it or not.

Turkey Urged To Consult on New Euphrates Dam Project

JN2401122293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jan (INA)—Iraq has called on Turkey to consult with it and inform it of its intention to establish a fourth dam and a hydroelectric station on the Euphrates River. This would be through three-way talks to reach a formula for averting the possible grave harm to the water rights of other states sharing the river.

The Foreign Ministry has issued a statement in light of reports that the Turkish Energy Ministry and the European consortium have signed an agreement providing for the establishment of a fourth dam inside Turkey and a power station on the Euphrates River near the border with Syria. The statement says that the resulting harm would be a basis for holding the states causing the damage internationally responsible.

The statement adds that Turkey did not raise this topic at the negotiating table during the meetings of the regional waters technical committee, which were held in Damascus from 28 September to 2 October last year.

The statement indicates that Turkey apologized for not attending the aforementioned committee's 17th meeting, which Iraq called for in Baghdad 11-15 January to discuss all matters pertaining to joint waters among the three states.

The Foreign Ministry statement says that for many years Iraq has resorted to direct negotiations with other sharers of the Euphrates River water—Syria and Turkey—to reach a just, acceptable formula for sharing the water of this international river, which is shared by the

three states, in accordance with established rules of cooperation in international law.

The statement notes that one of the firm international legal rules requires that any of the countries sharing the waters of a river cannot take any measures or undertake any construction work on the river or its tributaries before obtaining the approval of the other countries with whom it shares the river or before concluding an agreement with these countries to organize matters related to the common river.

The statement adds: This important legal principle is underlined in Article 5 of the First Protocol on organizing the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates and the addendum to the treaty of friendship and goodneighborly relations signed between Iraq and Turkey in 1946.

The statement says: According to this article, Turkey agrees to inform Iraq of any maintenance projects which it decides to undertake on either of these two rivers or their tributaries so that the work will serve Iraq's interests as much as it serves Turkey's interests.

Prime Minister Lauds Jordanian Stand on 'Aggression'

JN2401160593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jan (INA)—Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, Revolution Command Council member and prime minister, has received Musa al-Kilani, chief editor of the Jordanian paper AL-DUSTUR.

During the meeting, the prime minister lauded the courageous stand taken by the Jordanian people, government, and king in solidarity with the Iraqi people and leadership in their confrontation of the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression. Al-Zubaydi reviewed the results of the recent U.S. aggression on Iraq, as well as the continued economic blockade, particularly in the field of medicine and food. He also reviewed what has been accomplished in the field of reconstructing what was destroyed by the 30-state aggression, as well as the new agricultural and industrial development projects which the mujahidin have carried out and also those projects under implementation.

Musa al-Kilani, chief editor of the Jordanian paper AL-DUSTUR, asserted that Iraq has been and continues to be a pioneer in supporting pan-Arab causes and has offered great sacrifices and has been baptized in blood along this path. He emphasized that the Jordanian people will not forget this honorable role and added that what the Jordanians are doing in support of Iraq is only part of the gratitude they owe to the Iraqi people. Al-Kilani said Iraq will inevitably triumph because it is right and is defending a just cause against tyranny and injustice. He pointed out that the recent aggression against Iraq has led to a shift in world public opinion in favor of Iraq and has also caused a crack in the Western coalition.

Minister Meets Spanish Delegation, Urges Dialogue

JN2401203393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi met (Luis Utyru), head of a Spanish delegation, which is currently launching a campaign to lift the sanctions against Iraq. The minister highly valued the initiative of the delegation, which includes nongovernmental organizations, as well as its humanitarian position toward Iraq's people, who are suffering from aggression and the unjust blockade.

Speaking about the initiative Iraq launched on 19 January, he said that Iraq's decision toward the new U.S. Administration categorically proves that it is ready for constructive dialogue and equality based on action and respect for national sovereignty, security, and the people's right to self-determination, apart from the language of war, destruction, threat, and interference in other countries' domestic affairs in order to serve and bolster peace, stability, and security throughout the region.

The minister also pointed out that the blockade imposed on Iraq's people, which has entered its third year and which affects even food and medicine, represents a flagrant violation of human rights as included in the UN Charter, the principles of human rights, and all humanitarian and international norms.

It has been learned that during its visit to Iraq, the Spanish delegation will prepare a report on the conditions of the Iraqi people resulting from the 30-state aggression and on the impact of the unjust blockade on them. The report will be presented to the Spanish Government to get it to intervene to release Iraqi assests frozen in Spain so that they might be used to meet the requirements of the Iraqi people under current circumstances.

AL-JUMHURIYAH—Kuwaiti Regime Doomed to 'Extinction'

JN2301112693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0827 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the Kuwaiti regime is doomed to extinction, particularly after the depletion of its oil resources, when the Americans, Britons, and French will abandon it.

In an article entitled "The Kuwaiti Regime and the Fear Complex," the paper adds that the Kuwaiti regime will then show its true colors, and the artificial "statelet" will appear as it really is.

The paper goes on to say that regardless of the efforts and attempts made by the Kuwaiti regime to acquire the components of a modern state and to buy the services of foreign media, in Iraqis' eyes it remains smaller than a

mosquito and dirtier than dirt. Besides, the paper maintains, the complex of their fear of Iraqis will continue to haunt this regime and follow it from one generation to another until it throws itself into the sea to get rid of this complex, or until it is trampled under foot by our honorable brothers in our dear Kuwait.

The paper adds: The agents delude themselves into believing that their entity, which was created under the protection of colonialist spears, will survive as long as it continues to enjoy the protection of the Americans, Britons, and Zionists. They have forgotten that this entity, which does not possess the components of a modern state, cannot withstand the evolutionary movement of history, which was pushed forward by the glorious Mother of Battles.

The paper refers to an article recently published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA', in which the Kuwaiti paper assailed the great Iraqi people. Responding to this, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: We do not speak of Kuwaitis as the agent newspaper AL-ANBA' speaks of Iraqis. This is because we, as Arabs, distinguish between traitors and agents, and brothers who cherish Arabism, Arab unity, and the noble pan-Arab principles in our dear Kuwait.

The paper adds: The article published in the agent newspaper AL-ANBA' has provoked the Iraqis' pan-Arab sentiments and elicited their rage and indignation over trivial agents who allow their selfish personal interests to take precedence over higher pan-Arab principles.

Concluding its article, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Inasmuch as it revealed the immensity of the blind rancor harbored by the agents toward Iraq, this article showed that the treasonous "al-Sabah" family and its supporters have severed once and for all their affiliation with Arabism and the Arab nation.

BABIL Blames al-Sabah Family for Kuwaiti 'Disgrace'

JN2601102293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA)—BABIL has said that the rulers of Kuwait know that their legitimacy is marred by disgrace and black history and that all the might of the foreigner cannot remove that stigma.

In an editorial written by Dr. Sabah Yasin under the headline "Legitimacy Marred by Disgrace and Black History," the paper says that the position adopted by the al-Sabah family after 2 August 1991 has done irreparable damage to the body of this corrupt family that has gone too far in its subservience to the foreigner. The paper asserts that the sons of Kuwait will not forget this fact.

The paper affirms that the al-Sabah family's wager on subservience to the foreigner to protect its existence can only reflect its early downfall.

The paper holds the al-Sabah family responsible for the crime of separating Kuwait from the nation and tarnishing the nation's honor with foreign (?dirt). The paper also holds the al-Sabah family responsible for the crime of the death of the children and elderly of Iraq because of the blockade, which was planned by agents before it was endorsed by unjust international resolutions.

The paper goes on to say: The rulers of Kuwait are dreaming if they think that their wealth, which is linked with the foreigner's will, can draw a line between geography and history, and that these imported spears can protect them on the day of judgment.

The paper adds that the al-Sabah family, which has drowned in the quagmire of treason and agentry for foreigners, reminds us of the kinship between this family and Nasir Bin-Sabah, who led the Assassins in their anti-Arab campaign during the European invasion.

Baghdad VOP Calls Syria's al-Asad 'Agent of Zionism'

JN2501201693 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Diplomatic quarters in Washington and Tel Aviv monitoring Middle Eastern developments have said that Hafiz al-Asad will be the second Arab official to sign a peace treaty with the Zionist entity and normalize Syrian-Zionist relations, just like al-Sadat and Husni Mubarak.

These quarters say Zionist officials, including David Kimche and Uri Lubrani, have recently visited Damascus and met first with 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and the Syrian foreign minister before meeting at length with Hafiz al-Asad. These quarters assert that the visit took place to put the final touches on a compromise agreement over the Syrian Golan Heights. The solution guarantees a Zionist presence on the heights alongside a permanent presence by international troops.

It is clear that these Syrian-Zionist contacts and the resulting treacherous agreements constitute a stab in the back of the Palestine question and a betrayal of its intifadah and valiant strugglers. They also constitute an abandonment of the agreements signed among the Arab states neighboring Israel which forbid separate agreements with the enemy. But, Hafiz al-Asad, who for years continued to pressure the Palestinian resistance and prevent it from fulfilling its militant tasks across the Syrian borders and who began to press publicly for negotiations with the Zionists and agreements with them on some sort of a solution that would end the Arab-Israeli conflict, has abandoned all these agreements, as well as his false slogans on the Palestine question he pronounced in the past. He is now exposed, an agent of Zionism who works to serve its interests in exchange for his remaining in power to continue his authority over our Syrian people and to enslave and humiliate them.

Car Bomb Explosion in Irbil Kills 5, Injures 82

NC2201161093 Paris AFP in English 1555 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Ankara, Jan 22 (AFP) - At least five people were killed and 82 injured when a car bomb exploded in the northern Iraqi city of Irbil, seat of a Kurdish parliament, Kurdish sources said Friday.

The sources said the explosion took place in the central Irbil market on Thursday, leaving at least five dead and 82 injured. The victims were mostly children selling cigarettes and vegetable merchants in nearby stalls, said the sources, who travelled to Ankara from Irbil, inside a zone controlled by the Kurds in defiance of Baghdad.

Operations Under Way To Restore Marshlands Water

NC2301170093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] According to our sources in the south, groups belonging to the Islamic resistance have blown up the artificial dams and ramparts the regime's engineers built around the southern marshlands in the al-Dawwarah area in the al-'Amarah Governorate.

The sources add that the explosions caused big gaps in the ramparts and made the water flow to the marshlands, which had suffered a noticeable drop in water levels over the past two months.

Our sources add that the regime immediately sent troops to attack the area, occupy it, and block the gaps in the ramparts. However, our mujahidin forces confronted the troops and destroyed them completely. As of this report, there have been no reports on how many casualties the regime sustained.

Iraqi Forces Shell Residential Areas in al-'Amarah

LD2501112993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] The Baghdad regime's military forces have been shelling the residential areas of the town of al-Muhajjar in al-'Amarah Province, martyring and wounding many Muslims. Announcing this information, Radio Revolutionary Iraq [Radio Araq-e Enqelabi] added: The Baghdad regime has also ordered attacks against the residents of the al-Muhajjar region and many Muslims have been arrested, especially in the Abu-'Ali and the al-Hushayriyah regions.

Group Said To Kill 16 Regime Men in al-Basrah

NC2601080693 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Last week an Islamic resistance group seized a Land Cruiser vehicle from al-Basrah Security Directorate after ambushing it in the al-'Ashshar area, killing all passengers. Our sources say the resistance group drove the car toward the al-Basrah Security Directorate. After breaking into the facility, the group carried out a lightning attack using small-caliber weapons and hand grenades. The sources said the operation left 16 regime security men dead, including an officer and noncommissioned officers, and dozens wounded. All the group members returned safely to their bases.

Describing the confusion and panic that gripped the regime's troops and partisan officials following the attack, our sources noted that the authorities in al-Basrah placed all security, intelligence, and special security units on maximum alert. Popular circles were very satisfied with the operation.

Ba'th, Iranian Opposition Members Killed at Meeting

NC2501170793 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] An exclusive source in the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan has stated that on 20 January a secret meeting was held between members of the 'Aflaqite Ba'th Party's Karkuk branch and a group of Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq at the al-Qal'ah headquarters [not further identified]. The gathering was one of several secret meetings held recently between the two parties. The goal of these meetings was to coordinate between the Iraqi Government and the Mojahedin-e Khalq to draw up an emergency plan to defend Karkuk should it come under attack from peshmerga forces, as Iraqi officials claim.

At 1130 the same day, an explosive device went off inside the meeting hall, killing a number of Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq members and injuring three Ba'th Party members.

Regime Artillery Shells Peshmerga Positions; 'No Damage'

NC2501213593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Iraqi regime forces have bombarded peshmerga positions in (Garawah) village, Singaw District, over the past four days. The hostile bombardment caused no damage, however.

Rabin, Christopher Discuss Trip to Mideast

TA2601054293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Excerpt] The United States hopes that the problem of the deportees will be resolved soon and that this will facilitate a dialogue between the United States and Israel on pressing forward with the peace talks. This emerged from a telephone conversation last night between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, in which a visit to the Middle East by the secretary was discussed. From Washington, Connie Lonn:

Some diplomats may be packing their bags for a visit to the Middle East with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, but the Clinton administration is not yet ready to announce the trip. Speculation about a visit has been circulating for days, and Secretary of State Warren Christopher has hinted at the possibility. Israeli sources claim Secretary Christopher told Prime Minister Rabin he definitely will make the visit. At the White House, spokesman George Stephanopoulos said he had no information about such a trip at this time. [passage omitted]

[A related report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 26 January adds: "A senior Israeli diplomat in Washington estimated last night that the new U.S. Administration will not appoint a special envoy to deal with the peace process."]

Sources Deny Conditions Imposed on Rabin Visit

TA2601114793 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Jan 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev, Drora Perl in Washington, Miryam Fuchs in New York, On Levi, and Dan Avidan]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reiterated yesterday that the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees will not be returned and that this will not harm the peace process. His remarks were based, among other things, on reports he heard from Hans-Jurgen Wischnewski, chairman of the Socialist International's Middle East Department, and from Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana.

Israeli sources in Washington believe that the United States will refrain from imposing a veto if the Security Council resolution only demands that Israel return the deportees in accordance with the Resolution 799 timetable. It is estimated that a veto will be imposed only in the event that a more extreme resolution is endorsed. [passage omitted]

Senior PLO officials believe the deportation of Hamas activists makes the Palestinians' return to the negotiating table very difficult, but they do not regret the deportation itself. This was reported yesterday in Jerusalem by Wischnewski. He briefed the prime minister and the foreign minister on his talks with Yasir 'Arafat and other senior PLO officials in Tunis who, according to him, would like to meet with top Israeli leaders. [passage omitted]

Senior Israeli sources in Washington stressed yesterday that before it will have to make a decision to exercise its veto, "the United States will bend over backwards" to bring about a resolution of the deportee problem that will free it of the need to do so.

In addition, the sources denied Israeli press reports according to which President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher had conveyed messages to Rabin making Rabin's visit to Washington in some way conditional on his bringing to Washington "new plans" for the entire peace process or for the solution of the deportee problem. Likewise, Christopher's visit to Israel does not depend on the resolution of the deportee problem. Israeli and U.S. sources yesterday voiced confidence that Christopher's visit will take place during the second week of February and will "launch a dialogue in anticipation of Rabin's visit to the United States" in mid-March.

The purpose of the visit, they explained, relates to the broad context of the relationship between the two countries, with the peace process at its center. Therefore, to prevent the deportee affair from delaying the dialogue and the resumption of talks, the Americans would like to bring the affair to an end. Meanwhile, the Americans are awaiting the High Court of Justice ruling and are investing great efforts in postponing the Security Council debate until after the ruling is given.

The sources believe that the peace talks will follow the same pattern and that the new administration will not appoint a special envoy for the peace process. The United States is not expected to considerably increase its involvement, at least not at this stage of the negotiations. They noted in this context that Samuel Lewis, head of the Policy Planning Department at the U.S. State Department, will play a central role in the peace process, although it is not yet known whether he will play as key a role as that of his predecessor, Dennis Ross. Lewis himself sees his task as a historic mission and believes he will stay with the process until a permanent agreement with the Palestinians is reached. Jewish sources have pointed to his familiarity and good relations with Secretary of State Christopher, which will allow him to play a central role and to enjoy the confidence of the highest echelons.

Palestinian representatives yesterday approached Russia's Ambassador to Israel Aleksandr Bovin with a request that Russia and the United States refrain for the time being from sending out invitations to the peace negotiations, because the Palestinians would be forced to reject them at this time; however, the Palestinians told Bovin, their request is for a delay of only a week or two.

Political sources in Jerusalem said yesterday that the Palestinians have recently admitted to a desire to resume the peace process as soon as possible and that they have been urging their interlocutors to find a solution to the

deportee problem that will enable them to return to the negotiating table. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Welcomes New U.S. Foreign Policy Team

TA2201153993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jan 93 p A5

["Exclusive" report from Washington by Ori Nir]

[Text] Israel's Ambassador in Washington Zalman Shoval has expressed his satisfaction with the new team that the Clinton administration has set up to deal with the Middle East in general and the peace process in particular. "Israel should welcome this," Shoval said yesterday in an interview with HA'ARETZ. He added that the four central officials who will be dealing with this matter on behalf of the incoming administration have vast experience and knowledge in the peace process and U.S.-Israeli relations.

Shoval said that the team is made of Samuel Lewis (assistant secretary of state for political planning issues), Edward Djerejian (assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs), Dennis Ross (special assistant to the secretary of state on peace process issues), and Martin Indyk (in charge of Middle East affairs at the National Security Council). According to Shoval, all four share a "realistic approach to possible solutions for the Israeli-Palestinian issue, without being dragged into such or other ideological attitudes." At the same time, Shoval said, they are familiar with the peace process enough to make them able to raise unconventional ideas to promote it, should this be called for.

Shoval has recently met with the heads of the Clinton administration team on foreign policy. He said that the administration officials have taken every opportunity available to stress their commitment to the continuation of the peace process based on the achievements made so far. Nevertheless, Shoval said, the Middle East issue "is not their highest priority, because of Clinton's earlier commitments to focus on domestic issues, and in view of other international crises of a stronger and more urgent nature."

Shoval also said that although the team set up to deal with Middle East affairs on a daily basis and has a lot of knowledge and experience regarding the region, the new secretary of state and his deputy and the new national security adviser and his deputy do not have much experience in this field. This fact is of significance in view of the need for the intervention of senior echelons in handling the process.

Shoval does not support the idea of appointing a special U.S. envoy to navigate the process. He said: "If the team (in charge of the Middle East) is not seen as operating under the highest authority (of the administration), its effectiveness will be limited." According to him, it is essential "that all the Middle East parties know that they (the U.S. team) speak on behalf of the boss; therefore it is essential for the boss (the President) himself to make this visible."

In reply to a question on how Israel will be affected by the importance the new administration attributes to world disarmament, mainly nuclear disarmament, Shoval said: "I assume and hope that the Americans will in the future as well draw a distinction between a man who keeps a gun at home to defend his own life and another who keeps a gun for offensive purposes."

Shoval, who will be ending his term in Washington in two weeks, further said that the fact that the new administration attributes great importance to promoting democracy in the world is encouraging. According to him, the Clinton administration must be given assistance, and the United States should be allowed to set up the VOA transmission station in the Jordan Rift Valley because the aim of this station is to broadcast to totalitarian countries or to developing democracies.

Israeli and U.S. sources yesterday confirmed that Secretary of State Warren Christopher is planning to visit Israel soon. The date of the visit has not been set yet, and it is also not known whether his tour will include other countries in the region. Sources in Washington reported that Christopher has decided to take with him on his trip former Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis, who is considered well liked in Israel. Edward Djerejian apparently will not be going on the visit. This may attest to the fact that Christopher intends to grant Lewis a very senior status in handling Middle East affairs.

Reaction to UN Secretary General's Report on Detainees

Peres Criticism

TA2601065893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by anchorman Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning to you, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning to you.

[Einstein] I want to speak to you about the recommendations submitted by Butrus-Ghali to the Security Council. The UN secretary general is recommending imposing sanctions on Israel as a result of its failure to comply with UN Resolution 799 regarding the return of the deportees. Were we promised that the United States will veto a Security Council decision to impose sanctions on Israel?

[Peres] Let us be accurate. From what I heard, Butrus-Ghali is demanding that all the necessary measures be implemented, but he did not say what these measures would be.

[Einstein] But this can be interpreted as referring to sanctions.

[Peres] There are two chapters in Butrus-Ghali's report: Chapter 7, which refers to sanctions, and Chapter 6, which includes a timetable. I do not want to downplay the gravity of this affair. I want to say the following things regarding the secretary general's report: First, I regret his haste. He knows the affair is currently being debated by the Israeli High Court of Justice. He knows that Israel is looking for ways to resume the peace process. Second, his recommendations and those of the Security Council do not include any suggestion about how to fight the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] phenomenon. It is true that there is a double standard here—not on Israel's part, but rather vis-a-vis Israel. This is because the Security Council recommendations totally disregard the causes that led to the deportation, and this is unfair. Moreover, Butrus-Ghali calls for UN supervision in the territories, but what good will this do against terrorism? We all see the difficulties the United Nations is facing in places such as Yugoslavia and elsewhere. Third, I think that such blunt language will radicalize the Arab position. It will force the Arabs to take a more radical stand, whereas hitherto all the Arabs countries said they would come to the negotiations.

The main question Mr. Butrus-Ghali must ask himself and the Security Council, however, is: What is the aim of this report? Are they interested in punishing somebody or in advancing the peace process? The peace process must be steered past great obstacles and difficulties, and it is hard for us as well. Did we invite Hamas activities against us? Are we happy with terrorism? Do they think that the government woke up one fine morning and simply decided to implement the deportation out of the blue? Butrus-Ghali, as the UN secretary general, and the Security Council, as an institution, must ask themselves the following vital questions: to advance the peace process or to punish somebody? And whom shall they punish: Those who carry out terror activities or those who combat terrorism?

[Einstein] Mr. Peres, I want to return to the issue of sanctions. If the Security Council passes a resolution....

[Peres, interrupting] Look, I do not know why you want to return to this. We have not reached this stage yet. The situation is quite serious, but let us not make it any worse.

[Einstein] But if this happens and the United States vetoes such a decision....

[Peres, interrupting] I do not think we have reached this stage. We must act under the assumption that something can be done to prevent it.

[Einstein] What is your reaction to Butrus-Ghali's proposal to establish a UN supervision mechanism in the territories?

[Peres] What or whom do they want to supervise: terrorism or us? If terrorism, then how do they intend to control it? And if us, what is there to supervise? We are not behaving wildly in the territories. We are trying to enable the Palestinians who want to negotiate with us to do so. We want to free the Palestinian majority from the whims of a violent minority that threatens the negotiations and those who are conducting them.

[Einstein] Mr. Peres, do you think it will be possible to resume the peace talks without solving the deportee affair?

[Peres] Look, I already told Mr. Butrus-Ghali that the Security Council's decision to return the deportees does not contradict the Israeli Government's decision. We also decided to return them; the only question is when, and this issue of timing is our message to Hamas and others who follow its path. We sincerely want to find a solution that will not reward Hamas and will enable the negotiations to continue.

[Einstein] Can you point to such a solution?

[Peres] I prefer not to.

[Einstein] Does the expected visit of U.S. Secretary of State Christopher depend on solving the deportee affair?

[Peres] I believe that Christopher's expected visit will be dedicated to an important mission—promoting the peace process—and I welcome this.

[Einstein] Foreign Minister Peres, thank you and good morning.

Envoy Calls Report 'Unfair'

TA2601073593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Gad Ya'aqobi, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, by anchorman Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Gad Ya'aqobi, good morning to you.

[Ya'aqobi] Good morning.

[Einstein] We heard this morning that Butrus-Ghali has issued a harsh report calling on Israel to return the deportees immediately in accordance with UN Resolution 799 and recommending the establishment of a UN supervisory mechanism in the territories. Do you possess any official information on this issue?

[Ya'aqobi] The secretary general's report was issued last night in New York. It is now a little after midnight New York time. We received the report by fax about two hours ago, as have several Security Council members. We have not yet had enough time to study the seven pages of the report, only the chapter regarding the recommendations and observations [preceding word in English].

[Einstein] When Butrus-Ghali said that all the necessary steps must be taken to force Israel to comply with the Security Council resolutions regarding the deportees, do you think he was referring to sanctions?

[Ya'aqobi] I do not think he was explicit about it. I regret, however, that the approach of the UN secretary general is one-sided and totally ignores the background to the Israeli Government's move. It also totally ignores the danger Islamic fundamentalism poses to the entire Middle East. These very days, 100 countries are attending a conference in Cairo aimed at thwarting this danger.

[Einstein] Regarding the issue of the UN Security Council debate, my understanding is that you requested that this debate be postponed until after the High Court of Justice hands down its ruling and that your request was rejected.

[Ya'aqobi] It was not rejected. Throughout the past week we faced the possibility of an imminent Security Council debate. We managed—thanks to the cooperation of the United States and help from Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres, who spoke with Washington—to postpone the Security Council move. Let us recall that the Security Council was scheduled to convene last week, whereas it will only convene this Wednesday at the earliest—that is, tomorrow Israel time and the day after tomorrow New York time. It is therefore not true that we failed. We still hope to delay the Security Council session until after the High Court of Justice ruling.

At the same time, I deeply regret the report submitted by the secretary general and believe it was unfair. For example, the Security Council failed to address the issue of the deportation of Palestinians from Kuwait and of Yemenis from Saudi Arabia. Any comparison between Iraq and Israel distorts and falsifies, as Butrus-Ghali knows very well. I agree with only one point included in Butrus-Ghali's recommendations, and that is that henceforth all efforts should be devoted to furthering the peace process. I sincerely hope that the Security Council does not decide on sanctions. The secretary general's report does not include any explicit statement regarding sanctions but rather recommends implementing all the measures, and this can be interpreted in many ways.

Rabin Sees 'Double Standard'

TA2601110593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] We have an initial reaction by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to Butrus-Ghali's harsh report:

[Begin Rabin recording] I want to limit my reaction to one thing only: This report totally ignores radical Islamic terrorism; it totally ignores this type of terrorism's goal of putting an end to the peace process. The report exemplifies the double standard: It totally ignores terrorism and relates only to steps taken against it. It includes an almost unprecedented demand for Security Council action against Israel; I do not remember such a thing. On the one hand, they demand that Israel continue with the negotiations despite the fact that terrorism continues—and we accept this of our own accord. On the other hand, activity that was necessary to remove the most radical terrorist elements is being presented by them as an obstacle to peace. [end recording]

Our correspondent in the Knesset Yo'el Nir brought this reaction by the prime minister to the UN report.

Rabin Notes Diplomatic Efforts

TA2601135993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin hopes that the United States will not permit the imposition of sanctions against Israel. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that appearing before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Mr. Rabin recalled that no U.S. Administration had ever permitted the Security Council to adopt such a decision.

The prime minister noted that Israel had launched wide-ranging diplomatic efforts, which included 'Ezer Weizman's appeal to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali not to convene the Security Council until after the High Court's ruling on the deportee affair. Rabin told the committee that Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's report stipulated that the deportations constituted another serious Israeli violation of UN resolutions. The secretary general's report also mentioned UN resolutions calling for Israel's withdrawal from the territories.

Foreign Ministry Assistant Director General Yohanan Bein said that Jerusalem is preparing to launch a diplomatic offensive in order to convince the members of the Security Council to act in a responsible manner, and to prevent any harm from coming to the peace process as a result of their decisions. Bein told Qol Yisra'el that whatever decisions or actions the Security Council decides on, the Arab states will later feel obligated to adopt even more extreme language.

Foreign Ministry Communique

TA2601140293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has published an official communique in reaction to the UN secretary general's report. In its reaction, Israel expresses the hope that the Security Council will not convene until after the High Court of Justice ruling. The Israeli Government will not take any steps before the High Court reaches its verdict because any such action could be perceived as interfering with the judges' considerations.

The Foreign Ministry communique also notes that the government's decision to deport the Hamas [Islamic

Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists followed terrorist attacks by these organizations aimed at derailing the peace process and murdering Israeli and Palestinian civilians.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that in the statement, Israel rejects the secretary general's call for international supervision over the Palestinians in the territories. Israel declares that according to international law it is responsible for the security and well-being of the Palestinian residents of the territories.

Peres Meets Spain's Solana on Deportees

TA2501164393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana is currently meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. In his earlier meeting with Foreign Minister Peres, the visitor said that the Arab countries are interested in continuing the peace process but that it is not clear whether they will show up for the next round of peace talks. Our correspondent Asaf Ya'ari reports:

[Begin recording] [Ya'ari] The Spanish foreign minister is currently conferring with Prime Minister Rabin and updating him on his impressions of his discussions with the leaders of the Arab countries he has visited over the past three days.

Earlier Solana met Foreign Minister Peres in his home in Jerusalem, and after the meeting he discussed the messages he is bringing:

[Solana, in English] What I brought to Mr. Peres, and later to Mr. Rabin, is the impressions I have obtained from the long conversations....

[Ya'ari, translates and continues] I brought my impressions of long conversations in Jordan, Syria, and Egypt, and presented the concerns of the Arab leaders. Everyone is interested in the continuation of the peace process, but several obstacles have been created, and I cannot be certain about the future of the upcoming talks.

Among other things, Minister Peres and his guest discussed the issue of the deportees, and Peres learned that there still are options to prevent a crisis in the talks.

[Peres] If the problem is not solved, it will become an obstacle. It is not one yet because we are hoping to find a solution for the problem. If, however, it is not solved, it might become an obstacle.

[Ya'ari] You mean that the Syrians....

[Peres, interrupting] The Syrians will show up in any event, but there is doubt whether they will attend the first meetings, the multilateral discussions. Once this stops, it becomes problematic.

[Ya'ari] The Spanish foreign minister will leave Israel after his meeting with Rabin this evening. [end recording]

Talks With Rabin

TA2501173393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that if the Security Council passes an extremist resolution against Israel, many Israelis will begin to have second thoughts about the peace process. In a meeting with Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana, Rabin stressed that the government's decision on the deportees remains in force. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the Spanish guest did not bring any message from his government or from the Arab states he toured: Syria, Jordan, and Egypt.

Solana 'Rebuked' by Rabin

TA2601151193 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Jan 93 p A3

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] The discord between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on the deportations' impact on the peace process was exposed in the separate meetings the two men held yesterday with Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana. While Peres sided with the approach that the peace process cannot be resumed unless the deportee problem is resolved, Rabin believed the peace process would resume "because the Arab delegations have a vested interest in it."

Rabin sharply rebuked the visitor, who repeated an observation which has been voiced recently in various capitals that the Security Council should enforce its resolutions on Israel with the same determination it has enforced the resolutions on Iraq. Rabin said Israel is not seeking a confrontation with the United Nations and the Security Council, "but they must understand that any attempt to compare Israel's move, which inflicted no injury on anyone, with the Iraqi incursion of Kuwait and its responsibility for the Gulf war, or the conduct of Libya, which gives asylum to people who placed a bomb on a plane—any such comparison is hypocritical."

Rabin further said at the meeting, which was conducted in a tense atmosphere, that an extreme anti-Israeli resolution at the Security Council, of which Spain is a member, is liable to harm the peace process and to be seen by Israelis as a pro-terrorist act. The prime minister stressed that the government stands by its deportation decision, and Solana voiced a concern about the decision's effect on the future of the peace process.

The Spanish foreign minister said that in his meeting with Syrian and Jordanian leaders in recent days, he felt that President al-Asad and King Husayn would like to put an end to the deportee affair so as to allow the peace process to continue. Solana was under the impression that the Arab partners to the negotiations are very interested in resuming the talks in a bid to reach an arrangement with Israel. Solana's assessment of his conversation with President al-Asad is compatible with

other reports that have reached Jerusalem recently, according to which al-Asad would be ready to discuss a relatively long-term phased withdrawal, security arrangements, and in-depth negotiations on the essence of peace in return for an Israeli recognition of Syria's sovereignty over the Golan. [passage omitted]

Rabin Displeased With Madrid Format, UN Stand on Deportees

TA2501131593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Report by Ya'el Ayalon on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks before the conference of ministry directors general in Sedom on 25 January—recorded]

[Text] [Ayalon] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that the Israeli Government's present course of action follows two axes: political-defense and economic. He stresses, however, that policies must be adapted to changing circumstances. Only one year ago, the period that followed the Gulf war was ideal for the peace process. Since then, American and European priorities have changed as a result of economic crises, while the threat of radical Islam as embodied by Iran has grown. And yet Israel intends to adhere—albeit with clenched teeth—to the Madrid format:

[Rabin] None of these agreements—neither the limited ones nor the comprehensive peace treaty—was achieved in an international conference where Israel conducted simultaneous negotiations with more than one Arab element.

[Ayalon] A considerable portion of the prime minister's detailed review was devoted to the peace process and the status of negotiations with each partner. Israel is ready to implement Resolutions 242 and 338 in the negotiations with Syria, he said, but it will demand guarantees ensuring that the peace treaty will be honored:

[Rabin] What do they mean by the essence of peace? Do they mean borders safe for the movement of people and goods; diplomatic relations, including embassies; a policy encouraging normalization in relations between the two nations, between the people of the two nations? And the second thing: Will the peace treaty stand on its own two feet in the sense that after it is signed, no one will be able to affect it as a result of whatever is or is not achieved in negotiations with other Arab partners?

[Ayalon] While the prime minister is cautiously optimistic when describing the situation with Syria, he stresses that the gap between us and the Palestinians is one of principle. He believes that the root of the problem lies in the argument over the format of the interim and permanent arrangements but to some extent also in the Palestinians' inability to conduct negotiations:

[Rabin] Yet the Palestinians adhere to a tradition, which began in 1938, of missing opportunities. I hope they will not miss this opportunity, although there is no certainty because they do not have a consolidated leadership. I will say no more. I hope things with them will improve.

[Ayalon] The prime minister naturally addressed the deportee issue at some length. He argued pointedly with the government's critics and conveyed a tacit message to the High Court of Justice convening today and an overt and aggressive message to the United Nations:

[Rabin] I am convinced that the government's action was correct, although I admit I am not objective here. I adhere to the stand we took then, and I ardently hope that the Supreme Court, in its capacity as the High Court of Justice, will indeed endorse it. I am sorry there are voices saying that the government needs to be rescued. It does not need to be rescued. It needs to adhere to its stands, and if it does, if we pass the High Court of Justice test, the problems will be solved. The phrase double standard [preceding two words in English] has been used recently. What rubbish! Anyway, how can one compare temporary removal, when no one was killed, no one was hurt, no one died, with....[changes thought] and because of that, to demand that Israel be penalized and to draw a parallel between that and what Iraq did?

[Ayalon] The prime minister's address before the directors general went on for a long time. He addressed Israel's economic problems and the government's policies on unemployment.

Two Telephone Calls Threaten Rabin's Life

TA2501184093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] A telephone threat has been received against the life of Prime Minister Rabin. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the threat came in two telephone calls to the guard outside the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem. Jerusalem police are investigating.

Rabin Warns of Iranian Terrorism

TA2201060293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Prime Minister and Defense Minister Rabin says Iran has begun to acquire the megalomaniacal ambitions of Saddam Husayn. Talking in Tel Aviv to international members of WIZO [Women's International Zionist Organization], Rabin said Iran is directing terror against Israel and against moderate Arab regimes in the region:

[Begin Rabin recording] The Islamic fanatic terror groups, assisted, led, supported by Iran, declared time and again against the very existence of a non-Islamic entity as a sovereign state in the Middle East—first and foremost, against Israel. We see its fingers not only against Israel but also against every Arab moderate regime. We see it in Egypt; we saw it in Algeria; we saw it in Jordan; we see it among the Palestinians in the territories; we see it for a long time in Lebanon through Hizballah. These forces today, these fingers of Iran—

using the Islamic extremist terrorist perception—are the danger of the future and, to a certain extent, a threat at the present. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Peres on PLO Meetings, Deportees, Cut in Embassies

TA2501163093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Report by correspondent in the Knesset Tziyon Nanus—recorded]

[Excerpts] Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this morning, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the government will make no new decisions on the deportees before the court rules on this issue, if only not to appear to be attempting to influence the court. [passage omitted] The foreign minister told the committee that Israel must work on the level of public relations to change the international feeling that Israel must be taught a lesson.

The foreign minister added that he had not taken part in the television poll that examines the ministers' stands on the issue of the deportees. He is not pleased with the fact that other minister did take part in it.

The foreign minister added that he opposes meetings of Israeli Knesset members with Yasir 'Arafat. He seriously doubts that the PLO will change its stands after Israel recognizes the organization. [passage omitted]

In the discussion, which mainly dealt with the situation of the Jews in the East European countries, Foreign Minister Peres said: The Foreign Ministry is considering closing diplomatic representations in several locations in the world due to budgetary constraints. Peres said that some 1.8 million Jews still live in the republics of former USSR. There are Jews there, he said, but there is no Judaism. We are neglecting the aliyah, which did not grew despite the grave economic situation in the republics. Those who will not immigrate to Israel will be lost for the Jewish nation.

Peres suggests that Israel's foreign aid to the republics be increased, including the six Muslim republics, which may become the future determining power of the Muslim world. However, the foreign minister regrets that his office is facing serious economic and manpower problems, which make it difficult to man Israel's representations in the various republics and elsewhere. We would like to open a consulate in Shanghai but cannot. Israel is also considering closing other representations, such as the one in Paraguay, because of the budgetary constraints, Peres said.

Likud Knesset Member Eliyahu Ben-Elisar demonstrated the Foreign Ministry's distress by showing the list of its employees: In 1965, he said, the Foreign Ministry employed 848 people, while today—despite the rise in the number of diplomatic representations—there are only 872 employees. All of the committee members said they will support the foreign minister's request of the Finance Ministry for additional budget and more manpower in view of the grave situation.

Peres—U.S. Promised To Do 'Very Best' To Avoid Sanctions

TA2601120693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says Israel will reject Butrus-Ghali's proposal for UN supervision of the human rights situation in the territories. He was addressing a conference of the Israel Bonds in Jerusalem. Peres was asked if the United States has promised to veto any attempt in the Security Council to impose sanctions on Israel because it refuses to repatriate the expelled Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists from Lebanon without delay.

[Begin Peres recording] We got promises from the United States that they will try to do their very best not to let a situation where deliberations on sanctions will be at all necessary, and we share their view. [end recording]

Our reporter Jack Katzenell asked Peres for his reaction to Butrus-Ghali's call for measures to ensure Israel's compliance with Security Council Resolution 799:

[Begin recording] [Peres] The United Nations must take into consideration that this time the problem is not to punish or not to punish Israel; this time the real problem is either to continue the peace process or not. A strong United Nations stand will force the Arabs to go further than that, and if the United Nations wants to control Israel, it must answer how they are going to control the dangers which are facing Israel. You know, the United Nations tried their hands—I can understand it—in Yugoslavia, and the results are God knows what.

[Katzenell] Will you reject the proposal for United Nations' presence and supervision in the territories?

[Peres] Yes, we shall oppose it, because we think the best solution to the conflict is to have peace and not to have control. [end recording]

Peres on Rethinking Deportation, Syrian Remarks on Peace

TA2501135493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Report by Yo'el Nir—recorded]

[Text] [Nir] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres appeared today before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. The discussion in the committee was mainly devoted to relations between Israel and the East European countries. Outside the committee, reporters were naturally more interested in the issues of the deportation, the Syrian remarks in favor of continuing the peace negotiations, and what appear to be faults in the government's conduct.

Regarding the first issue, the deportees, Peres reiterated that we should await the ruling of the High Court of Justice. At the same time, the current government policy is the following:

[Peres] The government must put together three things which, to be honest, are not easy to connect: One, it has no desire for a confrontation with the UN Security Council. We seek neither a confrontation nor the results of such a confrontation. Also, we do not want to be immature, not listening and refusing to take others into consideration. Who needs this?

Two, we wish to make it possible for the Palestinians who want to return to the negotiations to do so soon. We do not want them to pay the price for the violence of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Three, we do not want to give the impression or create a situation in which someone might think that Hamas came out the winner in this whole affair. Absolutely not. As a matter of fact, this should have been the first consideration.

[Nir] Therefore, within a week or two, the government will have to make a decision along these lines, considering the facts facing it at the time of the decision but not according to questions or answers on a television poll.

As for the Syrian remarks in favor of the peace negotiations, Peres said:

[Peres] I believe these remarks include some shift. The remarks explicitly stated that they are not pinning their participation in the negotiations on solving the problem of the deportees. President al-Asad's earlier remarks also include an interesting signal. The interesting parts of his remarks were: A. He said he is seeking peace in the full sense of the word. B. He said that, although there has been no breakthrough, the road has not been blocked and that either of the two might happen in the course of the negotiations, meaning that he does not rule out the possibility of a breakthrough.

Anyone familiar with the al-Asad style must be impressed by the rosy color that appeared on the Syrian cheeks.

[Nir] And naturally, we must not forget the natural optimistic blush of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres himself.

Senior Official Comments on al-Asad's Peace Strategy

TA2601151493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Jan 93 p A3

[Report by Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] "Strategically, al-Asad of today is committed to the peace process," said a senior element in the present Israeli delegation to the Washington talks with Syria. "Al-Asad thinks of a years-long process. Therefore, matters perceived as technical (such as the deportee issue) will not delay the process as far as he is concerned." This view, which has been voiced by Israeli delegates, conforms with the remarks of Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, who said in 24 January Arabic press interviews that "the peace process has not reached a dead end, and Syria intends to pursue the process."

As for the Syrian readiness to march toward a separate peace agreement with Israel despite the Syrian Ba'th regime's famous pan-Arab pronouncements, the element said: "It is all a question of the price and the level of expectations. If we give Syria what it wants—namely, the entire Golan Heights—it will come to an arrangement without the Palestinians." He added, however, that "at present, al-Asad is not ready for full peace, but that will come in due course, too. Paving the way is one of the main functions of these negotiations." [passage omitted]

"I believe al-Asad entered the peace process without fully making up his mind about the peace issue. The Syrian president's way is that of slow pace and slow gestures," said the senior Israeli element, pointing to one gesture Syria made during the most recent round of peace talks when its delegates held the first informal conversation with Israel. According to him, the first buds of a modified media attitude to the political process have also been observed in Syria.

"The Syrians' performance in the talks is not creative, and that is a problem with which we have to deal," the element went on to say. He referred to an "ideological dilemma" besetting some of the Syrian delegates to the peace talks, including Ambassador al-'Allaf himself, "who said that he had greatly deplored the dissolution of the United Arab Federation." "None of them is really a deal maker," [preceding two words in English]. Their job is to supply the goods ordered by their customer al-Asad."

Rabin—Progress in Talks With Syrians 'Exaggerated'

TA2601174193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Report by Knesset correspondent Yo'el Nir—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that not just the extreme Islamic terrorist troops but also the PLO and Fatah engage in terror; to wit, the increase in the number of wanted men from these two organizations. However, in contrast with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which wants to terminate the peace talks, the PLO uses terror to pressure Israel and attain political achievements.

Nevertheless, Rabin pointed out, the three countries participating in the peace negotiations—Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon—want to pursue the talks. The Syrians are

the most avid supporters of pursuing the talks, Rabin said, while the Palestinians are an inhibiting factor.

Meanwhile, Rabin denied press reports alleging that a date had already been set for the resumption of the talks. He also denied Minister Hayim Ramon's remarks in the Knesset that great progress had been made in the talks with the Syrians. Ramon's statement was exaggerated and I was not pleased with it, Rabin said.

Deputy Minister Beilin Cautions Against Ignoring UN

TA2601143093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Gid'on Zelinger —live]

[Text] Good day to you, Mr. Yosi Beilin. The new government intended to turn over a new leaf in its relations with the United Nations, but this is not what is happening.

[Beilin] I hope that this new leaf will not be the last one. This is uncalled for.

[Zelinger] Were you surprised by Butrus-Ghali's harsh report?

[Beilin] There were some things which did not surprise me, but one thing at least surprised me very much. I am referring to the initiative calling for talks with the Israeli Government regarding the establishment of a UN mechanism for supervising the living conditions of the Palestinians in the wake of UN Resolution 681 referring to the Temple Mount events.

[Zelinger] You thought that this resolution was struck from the agenda?

[Beilin] Well, I did not anticipate that this resolution would surface in the context of the temporary deportations. Beyond this, however, although this report is not complimentary to us, it was to be expected. We should also note that Butrus-Ghali delayed this report. He waited for a rather long period of time, and we can indeed express some appreciation for this fact. After sending the first envoy he sent a second envoy, and he even showed willingness to wait some time until the High Court of Justice ruling. The report includes a rather detailed description of what the prime minister and foreign minister told the UN envoys. However, the bottom line of the report is unpleasant as far as we are concerned.

[Zelinger] Butrus-Ghali did not wait for the High Court of Justice ruling and issued his report, which according to the prime minister and foreign minister is a one-sided report.

[Beilin] The report certainly fails to attribute the same weight to the causes for the deportation as it does to the deportation itself. The argument behind this fact is that as UN secretary general it is his duty to implement Security Council Resolution 799, and he has no choice but to check whether Israel implemented this resolution or not. Israel was called upon to return the deportees and failed to do so; consequently, he states that we failed to implement the resolution. At this point we still do not know whether the Security Council will make more decisions at this point. We even do not know when the Security Council will convene. Regarding this last point the issue of the High Court of Justice was taken into consideration—it is a fact that the Security Council has still not convened.

[Zelinger] Some people called on the Israeli Government to persevere and not to surrender. Was this appeal motivated by the report that many of the ministers believe this issue should be reconsidered?

[Beilin] I do not think so. We did not expect the UN to praise us for our decision. The people who made the deportation decision took into consideration the fact we would neither score points in the international public opinion sphere nor in the United Nations. The decision was made in view of a certain situation and under the assumption that the deportation was important from the security point of view. I do not believe, therefore, that Butrus-Ghali's report calls for reconsidering the government's decision. As I said, this report was only to be expected in the wake of the deportation.

[Zelinger] What next? Obviously you do not subscribe to the view of Knesset Member Eytan who said that we should ignore this report and simply throw it into the wastebasket.

[Beilin] I do not agree with all the wise guys who suggest that we ignore the world and the United Nations. We have already seen in the past what good these people amount to. I am a member of the international community and am interested in its support. I think we should act with the aim of increasing world support for us, as long as this does not come at the expense of our security. This is how we should continue to act.

[Zelinger] You are not talking about a public relations gimmick. How do you intend to achieve international support?

[Beilin] I think that many things have been done...

[Zelinger, interrupting] Almost daily we hear about goodwill gestures which seem to be insufficient for the United Nations.

[Beilin] If you are referring to the goodwill gestures in the deportees affair, you should recall that both Butrus-Ghali and the Security Council are bound by the resolution which calls for the return of the deportees. Therefore they cannot express enthusiasm for our humanitarian gestures—at least not in the open. I must say, however, that behind the scenes there is an appreciation for our action to enable the passage of medicine and food, and to return some of the deportees. In principle, however, I

believe that Israel has done a lot of things over the last six months which have garnered it international support. We must continue in this spirit, because we require the support and help of other countries. We are still facing the Arab boycott and other problems. I believe that the flippancy of the people who call on us to ignore the entire world and to do whatever we want is unjustified. This holds true for the deportees affair and in general. We must continue explaining to the world why we made this decision and make every effort, mainly in the humanitarian sphere, to prevent the exacerbation of international criticism against us.

[Zelinger] Is this a problem in the information sphere? Are we supposed to make the United Nations and our friends understand that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is dangerous and could harm the peace process?

[Beilin] I think that the very fact that the Security Council is waiting for the Israeli High Court of Justice ruling is a significant success for Israeli efforts, and these efforts must continue.

[Zelinger] Finally, what will be Israel's part in contacts with the Security Council over the next few days? What expectations do we have of the Security Council?

[Beilin] We would like the Security Council to refrain from any decisions before the High Court of Justice ruling. In principle we will strive to prevent sanctions against Israel.

Says No Expectations From PLO

TA2201192093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Shlomo Ganor in the studio—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpts] [Ganor] Mr. Beilin, the UN Security Council is scheduled to debate the deportees issue tomorrow. Do you believe it will acquiesce to Israel's request to postpone the discussion until after the High Court of Justice's hearing of the deportees appeals?

[Beilin] So far we have not received any confirmation about a postponement of the Security Council debate due to the High Court's hearing. Unofficially, however, we have been told that it will be very difficult for them to justify such a postponement because of the Israeli High Court's timetable. I suspect, therefore, that this will not materialize. [passage omitted]

[Ganor] What effect has the deportees affair had on the resumption of the peace process?

[Beilin] So far the Arab world has only held discussions. Fortunately, no sweeping decisions have been made to stay away from the peace process as a result of the deportations, but the affair is hovering in the background. We are on the eve of the resumption of the multilateral talks in Washington on 9 February. Obviously, we also want to resume the bilateral talks in Washington, but no date has yet been determined. I hope a date will be decided soon and we do not have to recess the talks for a long time, until the end of Ramadan in late March.

[Ganor] What is Israel's attitude toward the possibility of the U.S. appointing a special envoy to the Middle East?

[Beilin] If you are asking me whether Israel is in principle interested in U.S. involvement in the political process, I will tell you that we certainly want the Middle East to be one of the more important issues on the agenda of U.S. decisionmakers. We realize that we definitely need U.S. help—not U.S. pressure—in order to make a breakthrough in the political process.

[Ganor] Dr. Beilin, what steps should be taken now that the law banning meetings with PLO people has been repealed?

[Beilin] We must go ahead with the peace process. I believe that the decision to rescind the law can help create a better atmosphere in our talks with the Palestinians. This does not mean that as of tomorrow we will start negotiating with a different element than that with whom we started negotiating a year ago.

[Ganor] Israel has done its part. What expectations do we have from the PLO?

[Beilin] We have no specific expectations from the PLO. We did not take this step in order that the PLO should act in any particular way toward us; we did this mainly for internal purposes. I believe, however, that since there has been a change in the atmosphere here the Palestinian side will be more dedicated to the political process and realize that it is dealing with a country that is willing to reach peace and is ready to pay the price in order to attain peace. If the Palestinians fail to take advantage of this opportunity to enter the political process with us and overcome several obstacles—which I consider artificial—we might miss this precious opportunity.

Views U.S. Ambassador's Appointment

TA2101080893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Good morning.

[Friedman] Have you received any official confirmation from Washington about Richard Schifter's appointment as ambassador to Israel?

[Beilin] No, I have received none and, as far as I am concerned, it is merely a rumor.

[Friedman] Well, we can discuss it academically. Clinton's possible representative to Israel is the former assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs, who authored several embarrassing annual reports that contained, among other items, criticism of Israel's attitude toward Palestinians in the territories. Is it possible that this appointment constitutes a clear position statement by the new administration regarding Israel and its attitude toward the Palestinians?

[Beilin] If it takes place—something of which I am not at all certain—this appointment will definitely reflect the human rights issue on the one hand and profound friendship toward Israel on the other. There has never been a Jewish U.S. ambassador in Israel, and if it happens, it will be a precedent. Furthermore, I do not think we ever had any argument with him when he was assistant secretary of state for human rights. He presented objective situations, and he did so with great amity toward Israel, attempting to find positive facets.

[Mardor] Apparently the man himself had problems with the administration, and that is why he resigned about six months ago.

[Beilin] Apparently, but this too did not assume the proportions of an intense public rift. We know of the reason for his resignation from rumor only, apparently a true rumor. It is interesting to note that when I met and discussed the deportee issue with him during my most recent visit there two weeks ago, he stressed that, in his view as a legal expert, the deportation does not contravene the 1949 Geneva Convention, because it is a temporary removal. He thought that as a temporary removal, the expulsion does not contravene the convention. This is a very rare and unique perception for the former and perhaps even the new U.S. Administration, and from this angle, Dick Schifter's appointment as ambassador to Israel is definitely an appointment of not just a Jewish ambassador but a very sympathetic Jewish ambassador belonging to the neoconservative group, the so-called Reagan Democrats, within the Democratic Party.

[Friedman] Would you build so much on the perceptions a man holds before he assumes office? I am positive your own perceptions underwent subtle changes after you crossed from opposition to coalition.

[Beilin] That is true, but one does not compare political and bureaucratic jobs. In this sense, as a bureaucrat, he will definitely find it more difficult to express his views on Israel. Nevertheless, being a great believer in a man's role in history, I would say no man can ignore his inner self.

[Friedman] Schifter is, as you said, a Jew. Is a Jewish U.S. ambassador to Israel good for the Jews? We have only the case of Kissinger, the former special envoy to the region, to learn from.

[Beilin] From our viewpoint, the Kissinger precedent was definitely positive. After the Yom Kippur War, he made a very important contribution to the political process. I do not see this as a central issue, although the man himself cannot ignore it. There is a variety of possible answers to the issue of his being a Jew. For some Jews, their Judaism is an almost marginal issue, one they almost ignore. Dick Schifter is not one of these. Dick Schifter is a proud Jew with relatives in Israel whom he has visited on each visit here. In this sense, it will be a very interesting phenomenon whose upshot is difficult to predict. It is hard to say today whether he will encounter situations in which his feelings as a Jew will conflict with his ambassadorial duties.

[Mardor] What do you think of the appointment of Sam Lewis, which may also have been made with an eye to the Jewish community?

[Beilin] Sam Lewis' appointment is very important, very positive. Sam Lewis is one of the more knowledgeable people about the Middle East. Even after he was no longer ambassador here, he was often involved in Middle East affairs, and he wrote a lot about what was happening between Israel and its neighbors. I have met with him recently as well, and I saw how fully updated he is about what goes on here. It is very important for us to have someone like Sam Lewis, who has a lot of knowledge about what goes on in the Middle East. The new administration has appointed very good people to senior positions, but they do not always have Middle Eastern backgrounds. A man like Sam Lewis can contribute a great deal to the decisionmakers during stages in which they have to be involved in the political process.

[Friedman] You have mentioned the deportee affair. Have you received any confirmation to the report appearing in this morning's HA'ARETZ that new Secretary of State Warren Christopher may arrive in Israel in the coming days to work for the solution of the deportee problem?

[Beilin] No, as of this moment we have received no confirmation. There has been a rumor, more than a rumor, but it is still not a fact. I hope we will know by the beginning of next week.

[Friedman] Dr. Yosi Beilin, thank you very much.

Attorney General on Arrangements for Deportee Appeals

TA2501144093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] The security authorities will set up at the Zummarayya crossing north of the security zone an installation to enable personal meetings between the deportees and their attorneys so that they can prepare appeals to the expulsion orders. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that this is one of the points in the document of clarifications the attorney general handed the High Court of Justice at the judges' request.

Attorney General Harish detailed additional arrangements that have already been made or are still to be implemented to assure that the deportees make use of their right of appeal. These include the transmission of mail by the International Red Cross, permanent and ongoing contacts through letters, and telephone links from a location near the Zummarayya crossing.

In the document, the attorney general also clarifies points about the process used to single out the potential deportees on the night of the expulsion, including the replacement of some candidates and the nonexpulsion of several dozen candidates against whom orders had been issued.

Swedish Foreign Minister Arrives for 3-Day Visit

TA2001120193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas arrived in Israel today for a three-day visit. Before she left, af Ugglas said she would present Sweden's position that Israel must find a solution to the problem of the deportees.

Foreign Minister Peres told Swedish radio he thought the Security Council would increase pressure on Israel, but warned that sanctions would undermine the peace process and provide a victory for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Comments on Deportee Issue

TA2101122593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas has called for a solution to the problem of the expelled Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the framework of Security Council resolutions. She was speaking in Jerusalem at a meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Margaretha af Ugglas is seen as much more pro-Israel and less sympathetic to the PLO than her socialist predecessor Sten Andersson. Nevertheless, she did bring up the problem of the expelled Hamas activists at a discussion with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this morning.

[Ugglas] We are now hoping that the difficult issue of the deportees will be solved, but it will be solved on the basis of the UN resolution, and thereafter, the peace process will certainly move forward in a very determined way.

[Katzenell] Foreign Minister af Ugglas, when you say that the problem of the deportees should be solved in accordance with the UN resolution, are you saying that Israel ought to just bring them home without delay?

[Ugglas] I think that the Security Council resolution provides the framework for the solving of this very difficult problem.

[Katzenell] So, in other words, Israel should simply comply?

[Ugglas] I am confident that the Israeli Government in discussions, among others, with the representative of the secretary general, will find a solution to this problem.

[Katzenell] Af Ugglas' visit was very warmly welcomed in Israel. The Foreign Ministry says it is the first official visit by a Swedish foreign minister for 17 years. In other words, the visit by Sten Andersson at the height of the intifadah was unofficial. However, Swedish journalists were told by their Foreign Ministry that the Andersson visit was official. This is a curious discrepancy so far unexplained.

Sees Harm to Peace Process

LD2101200393 Stockholm Sveriges Radio Network in Swedish 1645 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Report by correspondent Titti Nylander; Af Ugglas remarks are recorded]

[Text] [Nylander] The Swedish Government asks that Israel fulfill the UN resolution and take back the more than 400 deported Palestinians. This was the message from Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas, who met Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today during the first day of her official visit to Israel.

[Af Ugglas, in progress]...that we view with concern the latest developments, the deportations, that we have a very clear opinion that it is against the Geneva Convention and against international law, and that we support Security Council Resolution 799.

[Nylander] Margaretha af Ugglas addressed the Foreign Policy Institute in Jerusalem this afternoon, emphasizing the importance Sweden attaches to international law and human rights and expressing the Swedish Government's disappointment over Israel's crime against human rights in the occupied areas. Margaretha af Ugglas had another message to her Israeli hosts concerning the deportation of the Palestinians:

[Af Ugglas] I [words indistinct] a further message and that is that this situation with the deportees damages the peace process and (?if I say) very honestly, it also damages Israel, Israel's cause and interests, and I think that this is [words indistinct] counterproductive as far as I can see in most respects. I thought this was something Peres also (?agreed with me).

[Nylander] Margaretha af Ugglas did not make any secret of the fact that the meeting was warmer with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres than with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. It is a public secret here, in Israel, that Shim'on Peres has never been happy over the decision to deport the Palestinians. Margaretha af Ugglas visit was meant to warm the somewhat frosty relations between Sweden and Israel. Instead, the visit came at a time when the deportations force Sweden to

criticize Israel. However, Margaretha af Ugglas still sees a difference between the earlier and the current government's policy in the Middle East:

[Af Ugglas] The difference that I think exists in the new government's attempts in its Middle East policy and the one which existed earlier is that we experienced earlier that there was a certain imbalance in the old government's—so to speak—policy on the Middle East, where it came to be so that I think it was experienced by many that the former Swedish Government was not wholly balanced in its attitude. There was a great interest toward the PLO, the Palestinians, and there was very little interest, as it came to be perceived, toward dialogue with the Israelis. What this government is aiming at is to have an open and frank dialogue with all parties in the peace process and that through this—the fact that you can talk with all parties—be a supporting factor.

Economic Role in Territories

TA2101193993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Visiting Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas says her government will consider a request conveyed by Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres that Stockholm deepen its economic involvement in the development of the territories. In an address this afternoon to the Foreign Relations Council in Jerusalem, she said Sweden was already contributing $25 million annually to UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency].

Meets Rabin, Peres

TA2201114593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jan 93 p A4

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has notified visiting Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas that it will not assume responsibility for her safety during her tour of the territories, slated for tomorrow. The message was relayed to the Swedish entourage after the visitor announced that this will be a private visit and that, therefore, she does not want an Israeli escort or protection. Last night, political sources in Jerusalem expressed their displeasure with af Ugglas' decision to devote a significant amount of her time to meetings with Palestinians.

The visiting minister conferred with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday. In the meeting she expressed Sweden's support for UN Security Council Resolution 799 and said that she is worried the affair might harm the peace process.

Rabin said that the decision to remove the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders was not a deportation and does not contradict the Geneva Convention because of its being a temporary removal aimed against those at the top who incite to murder and hurt the peace process. Rabin stressed that the High Court of Justice will rule on this issue within a few days.

The prime minister reviewed the difficulties in the negotiations with the Palestinian delegation and argued against its refusal to accept the principle of two-stage negotiations as determined by the Madrid conference. Rabin announced that Israel will accept no change in the rules of the game to which the Palestinians agreed by attending the Madrid conference.

Peres noted that Israel welcomes Swedish investments in the territories, adding that Israel has expanded its assistance to plans for economic development in the territories. He mentioned the fact that last week the Knesset decided to abolish subsidies for investments in settlements and amended the law banning meetings with PLO officials. Af Ugglas expressed her appreciation for Israel's positions in the peace process and the progress made in its course.

In the meeting, it was agreed that experts from both countries will examine Sweden's involvement in the environmental and economic spheres within the framework of the multilateral talks.

Apartment Sales Dropping in Territories

TA2201195093 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jan 93 p 6

[Report by Nehama Dowek]

[Text] Apartment sales in the territories have reached an almost complete halt. From the beginning of January, the Shikun Upituah Company, which is in charge of selling state-built apartments in the territories—not including East Jerusalem —has sold only five apartments.

Ever since August 1992, when, as part of its decision on a new order of priorities, the government decided to cancel its support of construction in the territories, apartment sales in the territories have been on the decline. Government building constitutes the lion's share of construction in the territories.

Just for comparison: since August 1992 only 190 apartments were sold in the territories, whereas just last June—before the change of governments—Shikun Upituah sold 490 apartments in the territories. The slump in sales first became noticeable last July, when only 272 apartments were sold.

A survey of recent purchases shows that the latest purchasers are residents who have already been living in the territories in temporary housing such as trailers, and have now decided to move to permanent housing. In the past, apartments were also bought by young couples from central Israel looking for cheap housing.

The sales in the territories were also halted by the Finance and Construction and Housing Ministries' decision to stop issuing loans and grants to those settling in the territories, and to increase the benefits for purchasers of apartments within the Green Line. As a result, potential buyers, who were considering settling in the territories out of economic rather than ideological reasons, preferred to stay inside the Green Line.

Uri Ari'el, the head of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, said yesterday that in reality, there was a deviation of approximately 10 percent from the data published. Ari'el also noted that the people who published the figures do not know about apartments built within the framework of "build your own home."

Nevertheless, Ari'el confirmed that the volume of sales had slackened compared to the past: Ari'el said: "What is being done in the territories is a national crime. The finance and construction and housing ministers, backed by the prime minister, have decided to worsen the purchasing conditions of apartments in the territories."

Arabs Claim 40 Wounded in Gaza Strip Riots 22 Jan

TA2201183593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] At least 24 people were wounded today in riots in the Gaza Strip, a military source told our correspondent Moti Amir. On the other hand, local Arabs claim 40 people were wounded. The main scene of the riots was the Jabalyah refugee camp. The riots broke out during the funeral of a local Arab who died in a hospital in Gaza. According to local Arabs, the man was 25-year-old 'Ali al- Sharafi, an inhabitant of Jabalyah, who was wounded over a week ago in a clash with Israeli soldiers. Riots also occurred this evening in the Khan Yunus area.

Local Gazans reported that as they were searching for wanted men in the Tuffah neighborhood, security forces fired antitank shells at houses in a bid to capture several fugitives. One house was destroyed and another six were damaged. A local Arab, Faraj Dugmush, suffered a heart attack and collapsed when his house was destroyed and burned. A military source confirmed this report, and added that the wanted men apparently fled and that six inhabitants of Tuffah were taken into custody on suspicion of helping the fugitives.

Palestinian Killed Near Ramallah; Refugees Injured

TA2401065793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Near Ramallah, a Palestinian, 19-year-old Ziyad Salib, was shot and killed by soldiers yesterday afternoon. The Army says he was killed while throwing stones at the soldiers. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is investigating the incident.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown last night on the road in Jerusalem that connects the Ramot and French Hill neighborhoods. The police say no one was hurt and no damage was caused. The bottle shattered on the road but did not catch fire.

A baby was lightly injured from flying glass in Jerusalem's Nabulus Road yesterday when the car she was traveling in was stoned. An Israeli vehicle was also torched and destroyed close to the Mount of Olives cemetery.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 24 January in a page-A4 report by Eytan Rabin and ITIM reports that "approximately 70 residents were wounded in clashes in the territories over the weekend." The paper notes that "35 residents were injured on Friday in the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip when soldiers dispersed a violent demonstration," adding that "another 33 residents were injured when the security forces broke up riots in Khan Yunus, Rafah, al-Burayj and al-Shati' refugee camps, and Gaza's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood. One badly wounded man from Rafah was taken to Gaza's al-Shifa Hospital for treatment. A representative of the IDF spokesman at the Southern Command reported that on Friday, 24 residents were injured at the Jabalyah refugee camp and other locations in the Gaza Strip. Two Palestinians were reported to have been wounded on the West Bank."]

IAI Begins Project To Adapt Western Equipment to MiG Jets

TA1901142193 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 Jan 93 p 4

[Report by Avshalom Qave]

[Text] The Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] has launched a number of projects to adapt Western equipment and systems to MiG-21 and MiG-23 fighter jets. For that purpose, the IAI has received a MiG-23 jet which was flown to Israel by a Syrian pilot who defected to Israel on 11 October 1989. The MiG-21 was shipped to the port of Elat from Yugoslavia two days ago, and is now being moved to the IAI installations. This was reported in the latest issue of the aviation magazine "BA'AVIR," which is soon to be published.

The Syrian MiG-23 was moved to the IAI and will serve as a prototype for the development and adaptation of aircraft systems. The MiG will also test the systems in the air. Until it was handed over to the IAI, the plane was kept at the Israel Air Force's flight testing center and was flown dozens of times, in order to examine its performance and identify its advantages and drawbacks. Now that the tests have been concluded, the plane will serve as a prototype for conversion. It should be noted that the IAI has various upgrading menus for both Western and Eastern bloc aircraft.

King Visits General Command, Discusses Armed Forces Affairs

JN2501200293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, accompanied by His Royal Crown Prince Hasan and His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, visited the General Command this afternoon. His majesty was received by Field Marshal Fathi Abu-Talib, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Royal Ground Forces chief of staff; the Royal Air Force chief of staff; the assistants to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and the Inspector General.

His majesty met with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for some time and discussed with him a number of matters of interest to the Armed Forces. After he was briefed on a number of studies and subjects of interest to the Armed Forces, his majesty gave his royal instructions about these matters, their future prospects, and the possibility of developing them.

The briefing was attended by the Royal Hashemite Court chief, the higher education minister, the finance minister, the energy and mineral resources minister, the director of General Intelligence, the director of Civil Defense, and senior Armed Forces officers.

Crown Prince Hasan Returns From 3-Nation Tour

JN2401212093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur received His Highness Prince Hasan, the crown prince, and Her Highness Princess Tharwat al-Hasan upon their return to Amman this evening after official visits to the United States, the Republic of Germany, and the United Kingdom. [passage omitted]

During his visits, his highness met with a number of ranking officials in the countries he visited, and discussed with them latest Arab and international developments.

Prince Hasan Criticizes West's 'Differing Standards'

AU2601092593 Hamburg DIE ZEIT in German 22 Jan 93 p 6

[Interview with Crown Prince Bin-Talal Hasan by Fredy Gsteiger; place and date not given: "We Cannot Take More Thrashing"]

[Text] [Gsteiger] Your Royal Highness, did the American attacks against Iraq come as a surprise to you?

[Bin-Talal Hasan] The controversy regrettably became a personal duel between George Bush and Saddam Husayn. A limited action, directed against missile batteries within the no-fly zone in northern and southern Iraq, might have been justified. Yet, the size of the punitive action was absolutely unexpected.

[Gsteiger] Do you expect a new beginning in relations with Iraq from Bill Clinton?

[Bin-Talal Hasan] I hope so. The Persian or Arab Gulf has meanwhile become an American Gulf. It is understandable that the Americans are present in that part of the world. Yet, if we want to have peace in the region, this presence must not unilaterally serve the interests of a superpower. It is time to reconsider the security needs of the Middle East—not only for the Clinton administration, but for all parties. That includes Europe, too: It should more and more come to regard the western edge of Asia as the eastern edge of Europe.

[Gsteiger] What concrete steps would you take if you were in Bill Clinton's position?

[Bin-Talal Hasan] Hatred must be contained. I would like to see the revival of the idea of a CSCE for the Middle East. The Arab and Muslim peoples cannot be thrashed even more; not only out of sympathy for the Iraqis, but also because of the scandalously differing standards when it comes to implementing UN resolutions. I am thinking of the expellees in southern Lebanon; I am thinking of the Muslims in Bosnia; I am thinking of Somalia. We should, therefore, not be surprised if the atmosphere in the "Arab Straits" is extremely tense and threatens to explode.

[Gsteiger] The antagonisms separating the Muslims and the West are thus increasing....

[Bin-Talal Hasan] Yes, they are bound to. The more Europe regards Islam as the new evil after Communism, the more the people who are standing on the other side will see themselves as your enemies.

[Gsteiger] Are the United Nations no longer regarded as fair mediators by the Arabs?

[Bin-Talal Hasan] The Arabs are gaining the impression that the new world order is good only for those countries that have strong friends. Small countries without strong friends are isolated. True mediation exists only when the interests of all parties are considered.

[Gsteiger] Do you have the impression that Saddam was willing to fulfill the UN resolutions?

[Bin-Talal Hasan] I was recently visited by Hans Blix (the director of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency). He told me that, on the whole, the examination and destruction of Iraq's nuclear arms potential is quite successful. I do not think that—despite the fact that it has obstructed UN inspection flights—Iraq is basically rejecting continued inspection. Anyway, I am first looking at the Iraqi people, and thus the economic embargo. I know very well how much suffering this has brought to the people in Iraq.

[Gsteiger] Would you like to lift the embargo?

[Bin-Talal Hasan] I am in favor of examining all controversial and sensitive resolutions that were made in the heat of the Gulf war. Such an examination would probably show that some resolutions are the result of personal antagonism. It is important to preserve the unity of Iraq and, at the same time, to promote the evolution of the country without trying to remote-control all developments in the country.

[Gsteiger] Do you think that peace, freedom, and pluralism can be created in Iraq as long as Saddam Husayn is in power?

[Bin-Talal Hasan] I believe in evolution. It must come from inside. So far one has only tried to achieve a change in the leadership and a change of military power by force. The Iraqi population and the army are constantly signalled to take matters into their own hands and change their leadership. Yet, in reality, the exact opposite is being done: The stronger external pressure becomes on the Iraqi people the more strongly they are driven into the arms of their leadership and the more strongly they are made to believe that the reason for their misery is the foreign supremacy.

[Gsteiger] Why do the Arab countries so vehemently insist on the preservation of the unity of Iraq, which is an artificial entity anyway, a child of the period of colonialism?

[Bin-Talal Hasan] Yugoslavia was also an artificial entity, and so was Czechoslovakia. Would the Middle East benefit from Balkanization? We believe in pluralism. For me, personally, that means "one man, one vote," but also individual rights and the protection of the members of minorities. The fragmentation of Iraq could be much worse than everything that we are witnessing in the Balkans at the moment. We must not forget Lebanon! Even if we were to draw new border lines, these would remain artificial—and would not solve the problem of coexistence between various ethnic and religious groups. Therefore, I prefer to live with the devil I know—the status quo—than to conjure up the devil I do not know yet—a fragmented Iraq.

[Gsteiger] The differing standards are particularly obvious in the implementation of UN Resolution 799, which calls on Israel to let the deported Palestinians return. Yet, Israel refuses to do so. Is the government in Jerusalem ready for peace?

[Bin-Talal Hasan] We can say that, one the one hand, Israel is ready to talk to certain Palestinians, and is even considering changing laws that ban contacts with the PLO. On the other hand, with the deportation of the 413, the Rabin government is strengthening that group that rejects talks. Yet, its tactics of "divide and rule" have long become obsolete and are now backfiring at Jerusalem. If the Israelis really want peace, they have to seek it with those people that are there and not with people of their choice.

[Gsteiger] What would happen if the peace process failed?

[Bin-Talal Hasan] The Arabic countries and even Israel would dig themselves in. Strengthened by economic misery and political hopelessness, such a development would fuel extremism and fundamentalism. The Middle East would become even less stable—and more dangerous.

Editorial Says Clinton's Israel Stand Cause for Concern

JN2601133393 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Jan 93 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Why Is Clinton's Administration Encouraging Israeli Arrogance?"]

[Text] The encouragement given by President Clinton's administration to the Rabin government's policy of challenging the UN Security Council and scorning Resolution 799, as well as the threats to veto any UN resolution to punish Israel are a surprise to the entire world community and are denounced by it. They are also a cause for condemnation by all the Arab peoples.

The Clinton administration's intervention to postpone the UN Security Council session to discuss the issue of Palestinian deportees—in swift response to Yitzhaq Rabin's request—proves that the new U.S. Administration is beginning its era by practicing double standards and using more than one yardstick. This destroys the principles of justice and the pillars of international legitimacy.

Otherwise, what does it mean when U.S. aircraft launch barbaric raids against Iraq under the pretext that it is not complying with Security Council resolutions, yet the same U.S. Adminstration prevents the Security Council from fulfilling its duty by dealing with the deportees issue in its commitment to Resolution 799?!

By postponing the UN Security Council's session, Rabin wants to prove to the entire world that Israel's laws are above the laws and resolutions of the United Nations. In other words, they are above the laws of the entire world.

Despite that, Clinton's administration has encouraged this Israeli inflexibility and arrogance. At the same time, however, Clinton's administration claims concern for the continuation of the peace process!

From this premise, it must be said that if the Clinton administration continues to encourage Israel to proceed with its intransigence, arrogance, and disdain of all Security Council resolutions, it will obstruct the peace process with its own hands, whether or not it means to do so.

This U.S. stand at the beginning of the Clinton era is a cause for concern for the Arab states in general and the cordon states in particular. It also raises these Arab

states' suspicions regarding the seriousness of the U.S. administration and its concern for the peace process.

Demonstrators Urge UN To End Deportation of Palestinians

JN2401191493 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] The Jordanian Popular Committee for Supporting the intifadah staged a symbolic sit-in in front of the UN Headquarters and handed the UN representative to Jordan a memorandum asking the international organization to implement the Security Council resolution which asks Israel to immediately return the deportees to their homeland.

The protesters, who raised banners condemning the Israeli occupation policies against the Palestinian people, called on the international community to act to end the sufferings of the deportees.

Demonstrators Voice Support for Iraqi People, Saddam

JN2501110093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Jan 93 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'idah Kilani]

[Text] Amman—Voicing their discontent over what they see as constant violation of human rights, Jordanians took to the streets Sunday expressing their support for the Iraqi people and the Palestinian expellees and demanding the full implementation of United Nations resolutions.

In front of the U.N. headquarters in Amman, around 50 demonstrators staged a four-hour sit-in to protest "the double standards used by Americans against the Iraqi people and the Palestinian evictees."

Banners daubed with slogans such as "stop the suffering of both Palestinians and the Iraqi people" and "why do you apply double standards?" characterised the peaceful sit-in, organised by the Committee for Solidarity with the Palestinian Evictees along with the Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifada and the Islamic Support Committee.

The president of the solidarity committee, Dr. Mamduh al-'Abbadi, told the Jordan Times that "it is merely a symbolic act that is bound to be repeated (as long as violations of U.N. resolutions continue)."

In a speech to the gathering, Dr. al-'Abbadi called for the application of just policy and demanded more consideration to the humane aspect of their problem. He said that more consideration should be paid to the suffering of the evictees and the long period they have spent away from the families and children.

"It is 39 days of torture and suffering," he said. "39 days of degradation... 39 days of coldness, disease and hunger," he said.

Jordanians also participated Sunday in a march that started in al- 'Abdali, with about 500 people taking part at the beginning and ending with around 3,000 at the al-Hashimiyah Square.

The two-hour march was aimed at raising funds and collecting supplies for Iraqi children.

The march, organised by the Jordanian National Youth Federation, was continuously interrupted by calls and slogans condemning the U.S. policy and rejecting "the American-Zionist supremacy on the Arab territory."

The union's president, Deputy Mansur Sayf-al-Din Murad, delivered a speech at the end of the march in which he called upon the national groups to draw up a common plan of action.

During the march demonstrators shouted "America, listen well, we love Saddam Husayn," and "our blood and souls we sacrifice for you Iraq."

Leading activists, public figures and leaders of political parties, except for the Islamic movements, attended the march, among whom was Deputy Layth Shubaylat. Children accompanied by their parents also took part.

Fourth Leftist Party Granted Legal Status

JN2501085193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Jan 93 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—A leftist group, the Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP), became the latest party to secure legal status in Jordan after the government took the initiative to settle a raging controversy over rejections of applications for licence filed by leftist parties.

The JPDP was granted licence on Sunday to operate as a political party in Jordan after the group provided a series of clarifications to the Ministry of Interior following meetings with a committee representing the Council of Ministers.

"We have been recognised as a Jordanian political party by the Ministry of Interior," said Taysir al-Zibri, secretary-general of the party which had gone to the Higher Court of Justice with an appeal against the ministry's decision in mid-December to turn down its application.

According to party insiders, the main reason for the rejection was what was seen as organic and financial links between the JPDP and the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) led by Nayif Hawatimah.

The sources also said that a list of party founding members submitted to the Ministry of Interior also

contained the names of at least two people who held temporary two-year Jordanian passports.

Two-year passports are issued to residents of the Israeli-occupied West Bank to facilitate their travel. The document does not entitle them to full citizenship.

There was no immediate explanation as to how this problem was tackled by the party before securing a licence.

It was known, however, that the original list had about 130 names, whereas the minimum requirement was only 50. Therefore the deletion of the two unqualified names could have solved this problem. But this could not be confirmed by independent sources.

The Political Parties Law, which was enacted on Sept. 1, stipulates that no Jordanian group linked in any form or content with an external party will be granted legal status in the Kingdom.

It also states that only Jordanian citizens could join any political party in the Kingdom.

Mr. al-Zibri, addressing a press conference held at the party's offices in al-Shumaysani, said JPDP officials as well as representatives of other parties which were denied a licence held a series of meetings with the ministerial committee to work out a solution to the impasse resulting from the ministry's decision to turn down the parties' applications.

The parties had gone to the Higher Court of Justice with appeals against the rejections. Their arguments said that the Ministry of Interior was licensing only mainstream nationalist Jordanian groups with pro-establishment loyalties.

"Subsequent to the meetings with the ministerial committee, we provided a set of clarifications to the Ministry of Interior," said Mr. al-Zibri, a prominent former member of the DFLP leadership who led the DFLP faction in Jordan until the new law took effect.

Mr. al-Zibri said the explanations represented an annexe to the JPDP manifesto, submitted earier to the ministry.

The clarifications, shrouded in legal terms and references to various articles in the Political Parties Law, indicated that the party reaffirmed its commitment to the Jordanian Constitution and adherence to the Kingdom's laws and regulations, as well as respect for nationl security and various related organisations.

It said its financial sources were exlusively Jordanian, that it had no links with any external organisation and that it remained committed to the principle that no individual could be a member of two political parties.

It also reiterated that the party would adopt a neutral approach towards various public institutions, particularly in the education sector, meaning that it would not involve any government institution or school in political activities.

The JPDP, which includes Deputy Bassam Haddadin (al-Zarqa') and writer Salim al-Nahhas among its prominent members, became the ninth political party to be registered in Jordan following the enactment of the new law on Sept. 1, lifting a three-decade ban on political parties in the Kingdom.

Three other groups which were also granted legal status in line with the government effort to defuse the controversy and realign the political process in the Kingdom were the Jordan Democratic Progressive Party (led by 'Ali 'Amir, the Jordanian Communist Party (Ya'qub Zayyadin) and the Jordan Arab Socialist Ba'th Party (Ahmad al-Najdawi.

Others which have been given legal status so far are:

—The Jordan National Alliance, (a pro-establishment group of tribal leaders from the south and central parts of Jordan, led by Mijhim al-Khurayshah;

—The Popular Union Party (Arab nationalist, led by Talal al- Ramahi);

—The Pledge Party (pro-establishment, led by ('Abd-al-Hadi al- Majali);

—The Future, (pro-establishment, led by Sulayman 'Arar);

—The Islamic Action Front, (formally described as a broadbased Islamic coalition, but dominated by the Muslim Brotherhood);

Activists said applications filed by at least three other groups were pending with the Ministry of Interior, which is expected to issue its decisions soon.

Parliament Urged To Enforce Existing Anticorruption Laws

JN2301075693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Law on Corruption?"]

The fight against corruption in government is a worthy cause that obviously enjoys wide public support and is definitely prompted by so many stories and yet few proven cases of abuse of public office. But the crusade for clean government is also engulfed by political intrigue and sensationalism that might push some of us, like our honourable legislators, to cross the fine line of drafting effective anti-corruption laws into the domain of electioneering. There is a difference here in that the latter causes not only unnecessary noise but could also encroach on individual rights without effectively achieving the purpose behind it.

It is in this light in fact that the draft law on the illegal acquisition of wealth has to be seen and addressed. The as-yet- unfinished bill is expected to cause a confrontation between the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament when they debate it in a joint session soon after the Senate asked for amendments in it.

To fight alleged corruption in the country, we do not need new laws at all. So why the two houses are bothered with debating the legislation in the first place is unkown to us. There are enough laws in the country that can sufficiently check and weed out any illegal practices in government. What might be missing is the will and courage to activate them when necessary. Also, the draft law that was passed by the Lower House this month after deputies rejected the amendments of the Senate only inflates a bureaucracy that parliamentarians and government officials alike contend is plagued by inefficiency.

The proposed bill calls for the creation of a special department at the Ministry of Justice to monitor and keep accounts of the liquid and fixed assets of both high-ranking government office holders and legislators. The proposed department has the right to ask for financial statements from senior public officials upon appointment and to periodically thereafter check against unlawful increases of wealth. If it finds evidence establishing any illegal practices, the department can refer suspects to the "concerned authorities."

That, we believe, is an unnecessary waste of time and resources. Other judicial and government agencies can perform exactly the same task. The tax department, for instance, should have access to information on individuals' wealth and annual income. Its responsibilities can be expanded to monitor and then report questionable increases in officials' wealth during their term of office to the "concerned authorities."

The fight against corruption can best be launched by consolidating the present laws and rules of ethics and democracy in society. That means enforcing all laws and holding all citizens accountable under them.

It is in this direction that Parliament should steer its efforts, utilising the remaining time of its current session to complete unfinished business that can strengthen the pillars of our embryonic democratic process and put under more scrutiny the performance of government.

Al-Rantisi Sees U.S. Losing Credibility Over Sanctions

NC2601105893 Paris AFP in English 1028 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur, Jan 26 (AFP)—The United States will lose its credibility as a world power if it vetoes U.N. sanctions against Israel for expelling around 400 Palestinians to south Lebanon, the deportees' spokesman warned Tuesday.

'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, speaking at the deportees' desolate camp here, also welcomed U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus- Ghali's call on the Security Council "to take whatever measures are required" to ensure the return of the Palestinians.

Al-Rantisi said however that Butrus-Ghali's call was "positive but late."

"The United States will lose its credibility as a world power if it uses its veto to save Israel from sanctions," he warned.

The Israeli government has called on the United States to use its veto power as one of the five permanent members of the Security Council to block any measure that may penalize Israel.

Israel deported the Palestinians, suspected of links to radical groups, on December 17 in retaliation for the killing of Israeli soldiers.

Al-Rantisi said he deplored any delay in Security Council discussions pending a ruling on the expulsions by the Israeli supreme court, "as if its decisions could be influenced by an Israeli body."

Deportees Spokesman Rejects Israeli Offer

NC2501193293 Paris AFP in English 1825 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, Jan 25 (AFP) - Israel Monday offered 400 Palestinians deported to south Lebanon the right to meet a lawyer to appeal their exile, in a bid to head off a Supreme Court decision declaring the expulsions illegal.

But a spokesman for the deportees said they would turn down the offer.

"We will refuse to meet lawyers or our relatives and will not allow anyone to meet with them. We will refuse to appeal. I call on our relatives not to appeal and on those deportees who have already done so to withdraw them," said spokesman 'Abd-al-'Aziz al- Rantisi.

Al-Rantisi was speaking at the deportees' camp in south Lebanon, which is stuck between the Israeli and Lebanese Armies. Lebanon says they are Israel's responsibility and has refused entry to the Palestinians, deported on December 17 for their links to Muslim radical groups. Strong winds and rains Monday buffeted the deportees' tents.

Legal advisor Yosef Harish said here the government would allow each man to meet once with his lawyer or a family member with power of attorney at the Zummarayya pass in south Lebanon which leads from the camp into Israel's self-declared "security zone". This one-time meeting would allow the deportees a right of appeal before a military commission, according to a 35-point report submitted to the court. The Israeli Army would provide transportation for the lawyers or their representatives, Harish said.

But one of the men's lawyers, Lea Tsemel, told AFP that none of the lawyers would go to Zummarayya. [passage omitted]

Shams al-Din Rejects Iraq's Appointment of Shiite Leader

NC2401204693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has announced that the Iraqi regime's appointment of Muhammad Sadiq al-Sadr as the spiritual leader [marji'an] of the Shiite sect does not at all concern us or the Shiite Muslims. He explained that this type of appointment is not the business of any government or political or nonpolitical authority. [passage omitted]

Army Units Storm Party Headquarters in Sidon, al-Hilaliyah

NC2501110693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Lebanese Army units last night stormed a Nasirite Popular Organization party headquarters in Sidon. Army sources said military equipment and vehicles were seized. Army units also stormed the headquarters of a Palestinian faction in al-Hilaliyah and seized military clothing.

Nasirite Leader Criticizes Action

NC2501141793 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Army broke into the Nasirite Popular Organization's [NPO] centers in Sidon last night, smashing some items in the organization's main office. Commenting, NPO Secretary General Deputy Mustafa Sa'd spoke today after visiting the tomb of his daughter Natasha, who was killed in 1985 during a bid to assassinate her father. Sa'd held the political authority responsible for any consequences. He called for the withdrawal of the Lebanese Army from city streets, saying the Army's duty is to confront the Zionist enemy. Maintaining security in the cities is the duty of the Internal Security Forces, not the Army; it is the Army's

duty to defend the homeland's territory and safeguard our international borders, he added. [passage omitted]

Sidon Leader Calls Raids 'Uncivilized'

NC2601093793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] The Lebanese Army Command Guidance Directorate has said that Army forces last night raided military, party, and security centers in Sidon and in the Burj Hmmud district [in Beirut] and found a large quantity of military vehicles, equipment, and ammunition.

Commenting on Army raids of Nasirite Popular Organization centers in Sidon, Deputy Mustafa Sa'd said this is uncivilized, adding that arms represent an honor for the men resisting Israel. He said there are arms throughout Lebanon, adding: We have not used arms in lanes, alleys, or in domestic conflict. He called for withdrawing the Army from the streets and said its task is to protect the borders and confront the enemy. The cities, he said, are the responsibility of the internal security forces.

Fadlallah Opposes 'Involuntary Conscription' Plan

NC2301084593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] The issue of involuntary conscription has given the country's downtrodden class another cause for resentment. The regime is using this issue for commercial and material gain while overlooking the importance of patriotism in confronting the Zionist enemy that is still occupying a dear part of our south. Involuntary conscription has met with public dismay, particularly among the downtrodden, and denounced by several officials.

[Hizballah spiritual leader] Ayatollah Sayyid Mohammad Husayn Fadlallah has called on the political leadership to reconsider the military service law in light of the country's conditions of poverty and hunger.

His eminence said: Once the Lebanese are better off in the security and economic sense and the regime is able to draft all those who reach conscription age, the state may apply such a law. But, as we know, if everyone who is served with a conscription notice answers the call, the state's budget will not be able to afford enrolling more than 10 percent of the potential conscripts in service.

Therefore, his eminence added, you must freeze that law and partially or entirely reconsider it. The country's conditions have deeply scarred every family. The issue is not that the public does not wish to participate in defending the nation, but that this [defense] task is not of a scale justifying such a law, at least not under the present political and economic emergency conditions.

Al-Asad Heart Attack Story Dismissed as 'Fabrication'

PM2501165793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Syria Denies Al-Asad Had a Heart Attack"]

[Text] Damascus—Damascus yesterday denied that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's health has deteriorated, describing the Western press reports on the matter as "fabricated."

In reply to a question by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday about the French paper LIBERATION's claim two days ago that President Hafiz al-Asad had had a heart attack and that he was critically ill, Syrian presidential sources said that "the claim about deterioration of President al-Asad's health is a mere fabrication, is regrettable, and deserves no comment."

President al-Asad appeared on Syrian television the day before yesterday receiving Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana. He seemed to be in good health.

The Syrian sources said that that appearance was evidence that the French press report was untrue.

President al-Asad is 62. He did have a heart attack in 1984 but his doctors did not think he needed surgery. He went to the Soviet Union for treatment, but usually he is treated by Syrian doctors.

Although he suffers from diabetes, various sources emphasize that he is in good health.

Vice President Receives Lebanese Prime Minister 24 Jan

JN2401181393 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1705 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Damascus, 24 Jan (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at 1300 today.

Discussion during the meeting revolved around efforts made to reinforce the construction drive in Lebanon. Discussions also dealt with the current regional situation, the situation of Palestinian deportees, and relations between the two fraternal countries.

Khaddam, al-Hariri Discuss Deportees

NC2401153793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam met with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in Damascus at noon today to discuss the possible resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations following the inauguration of U.S. President Bill Clinton. They also discussed the Palestinian deportees and issues of common interest.

Prime Minister al-Hariri also met with Syrian Chief of Staff Major General Hikmat al-Shihabi.

Prime Minister al-Hariri is due to return to Beirut tonight and will brief the Council of Ministers tomorrow on the results of his visit.

Prime Minister Receives al-Hariri

JN2401132493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at 1200 today.

Al-Hariri conveyed the greetings of Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi to President Hafiz al-Asad. He expressed his appreciation for the president and his wise leadership.

Discussion during the meeting dealt with the issue of deportees and the need to implement international legitimacy to return them to their homes. Discussion also revolved around developing brotherly and friendly relations between the two fraternal countries in all fields, proceeding from the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination and the practical and true interpretation of it.

During the meeting, it was emphasized that fulfilling the clauses of this treaty will reflect positively on the two fraternal countries' interests, stability, and security in all fields.

Al-Hariri renewed his invitation to Mahmud al-Zu'bi to visit Lebanon. The second week of next month has been set for the visit.

Discussion also dealt with a number of issues on means to develop cooperation in all fields.

Foreign Ministers Meet

JN2301180093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Damascus, 23 Jan (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and his delegation this evening.

Talks at the meeting dealt with the situation in the region, the peace process, the deportees, bilateral relations, and bolstering relations between Syria and Lebanon.

Al-Hariri Makes Statement, Departs

JN2401183693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1745 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Damascus, 24 Jan (SANA)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left Damascus on his way back to Beirut this evening.

Before his departure, al-Hariri said that during his meetings in Damascus, discussions dealt with issues of

interest to the two fraternal countries within the framework of continuous bilateral cosultation and coordination.

He noted that his talks focused on steps and measures taken by the Lebanese Government which require bilateral coordination. They also focused on the peace process and its prospects in light of the Palestinian deportees problem and the new U.S. Administration.

Al-Hariri praised fraternal Syria's support for the Lebanese Government's decisions and measures on all levels to entrench security, spread state authority, and reinforce the construction and development drive.

Al-Asad Receives Phone Call From Lebanon's al-Hirawi

JN2401190893 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi this evening.

The two sides discussed common bilateral issues and the situation of the Palestinian deportees.

Spanish Foreign Minister Reviews 'Fruitful' Visit

JN2401134293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana and his delegation left Damascus this morning after a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

In a statement to SANA correspondent, Solana described his visit to Damascus as fruitful and useful. He said: During this visit, I was honored to meet President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian officials. He added: Talks dealt with bilateral relations and viewpoints were exchanged on issues of common interest, particularly the Middle East peace process, and I listened to Syria's stand on this issue.

Solana expressed Spain's desire to boost its relations with Syria.

Khaddam on Redeployment Decision for Lebanese, Syrians

NC2601100093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has stated that a return to war in Lebanon is almost impossible and that peace in Lebanon has made great strides. In an interview with the London-based newspaper AL-WASAT, he said the redeployment of the Syrian forces in Lebanon should be decided by the Lebanese and Syrians, no one else.

Khaddam said the sectarian system is the core of the problem in Lebanon; the step that has not been implemented is to abolish sectarianism in line with al-Ta'if Accord.

Addressing those who oppose the Lebanese regime from Paris, he said: If they really want stability and progress for their country, they must bring their funds to Lebanon and participate with their Lebanese brothers in the march of peace and reconstruction. National detente is a fact in Lebanon.

Khaddam said there are Lebanese-Syrian committees that meet and coordinate daily and hold permanent contacts in line with the provisions of the Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination between Lebanon and Syria.

Pressure Urged on Israel To Implement UN Resolutions

JN2501115793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Discussing Israeli intransigence which hampers the peace process, AL-BA'TH editorial says: By adopting intransigent stands, Israel contradicts the international efforts which have persistently sought stability in this part of the world. The paper explains that an atmosphere of pessimism is engulfing the peace process after the eight rounds of talks have failed to achieve any progress as a result of continued obstruction by the Israeli negotiator. This pessimism mounted in wake of the mass deportation of more than 400 Palestinians who were uprooted from their homeland. The paper points to Israel's continued rejection of the recent UN Security Council resolution which obligates it to repatriate the deportees at a time when Israel is continuing its repressive practices in the occupied territories, where the occupation authorities have issued new orders to shoot any suspect. These orders mean the killing of more kinfolk and the shedding of more Arab blood in line with the policy of aggression and entrenchment of occupation.

AL-BA'TH adds: The deportees' issue will remain one of several obstacles as long as Israel continues to insist on not repatriating them. As successive reactions are made worldwide, including the U.S. capital, demanding the implementation of Resolution 799, the U.S. secretary of state will certainly give this issue more attention in order to solve it and set a date for the resumption of peace talks.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Given the fact that the Arab parties are still seeking the continuation of the peace process out of their commitment to international legitimacy with the aim of realizing a just and comprehensive solution which would achieve security and stability in the region, the international community, led by the co-sponsors of the peace conference, is urged to exert

pressure on Israel so that it would respond favorably to UN resolutions and open the way for the resumption of peace talks.

Commentary Calls For Active U.S. Role in Peace Talks

JN2201162893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: In his congratulatory cable to new U.S. President Bill Clinton, President Hafiz al-Asad has hoped that the United States will play an active role in advancing the peace process in accordance with the bases of the Madrid conference. The Washington talks, which have lasted more than a year, have not achieved the hoped for success due to the continued Israeli intransigence on one hand and the former U.S. Administration's preoccupation with elections on the other.

It is known that the Bush administration backed down on most of its stands on the implementation of international law across the board, without exception, and on not adopting double standards. It also extended American aid and free weapons to Israel and thus encouraged the Rabin government to refuse to implement the Security Council resolutions on achieving a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East in addition to the recent Security Council resolution binding Israel to return the Palestinian deportees to their homeland and to ensure their safety.

If we review what took place during the past years, we will only find that Israel prevented the establishment of normal cooperation with the United States. The U.S. presidents used to ignore the just Arab cause and turned a deaf ear to the appeals of millions of Arabs who were displaced from their homeland as a result of Israel's wars and its expansionist hostile policies. Many a call was made by prominent Arab officials, particularly President Hafiz al-Asad, asking the White House to adopt an American, not Israeli, policy vis-a-vis the Middle East to the extent that many have become convinced that the U.S. policy is drawn in Tel Aviv, not in Washington. When former U.S. President George Bush announced his commitment to implementing the UN resolutions and to achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, based on land for peace, the Arabs responded positively to his initiative, and Syria was the one which opened the door to peace wide open—the door which the Shamir government intended to close in the face of former Secretary James Baker. Syria presented, during the Washington talks, constructive and balanced proposals to render the peace process a success. These proposals, which were commended by all world circles, were not implemented as a result of the Israeli rulers' procrastination and premeditated misinterpretations of the UN resolutions.

Therefore, it is natural to direct eyes to the new administration in Washington and to President Clinton, in particular, as the peace issue in the Middle East is not vital and decisive only to the states in the region, but also to the entire world. The United States' only choice is to play an active and effective role in the peace talks on the basis of the international law and in the interest of the international law. If it wants peace and stability to prevail in the Middle East, the United States should abandon the policy of double standards and adopt the language of international law and justice in dealing with the Middle East issue.

The Security Council adopted many resolutions, including Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which were taken as the basis of the peace process. Therefore, the Arabs and the world have a right to call for implementing these resolutions. The United States itself is one of the influential superpowers which drafted these resolutions and was committed to implementing them. The Arabs and the world also have a right to call for implementing Resolution 799 calling for the return of the deportees to their homeland. If the deportees continue to be victims of cold, starvation, thirst, and death this will be a disgrace to mankind and a blatant example of double standards and the Security Council's failure to assume its simplest responsibilities. If these deportees remain wherever they are, the Arabs and all peace-loving people will be convinced that nothing has changed in the world order and that the new thing in the world order is the collapse of the former Soviet Union, the placing of the Security Council under western control, and using the Security Council as a tool to implement certain policies and as a stick in the face of those who do not show readiness to bow their heads without any discussion.

We do not exaggerate if we say that the stand on the Middle East issue remains a delicate criterion for the new U.S. Administration. Peace will be possible in the region when the new administration adopts an American policy that takes into consideration, at least, the interests of Washington, if not the interests of the international community. Peace in the Middle East will be inevitable when the new administration decides to enhance international law and to adopt a just course in dealing with countries and their causes. There is no other just cause like the Palestine question and there are no people who merit international care like the Palestinian people and their millions displaced throughout the world as well as tens of thousands of Syrians and Lebanese who were forced to leave their lands by Israeli tanks, artillery shelling, and bestial raids.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Discusses Current Political, Military Issues

LD2501171993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Esteemed Professor Burhanoddin Rabbani received this afternoon the BBC correspondent in Kabul and replied to her questions on the current situation in the country.

The esteemed president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan said in this interview that the Islamic State of Afghanistan is always in favor of resolving the problems through talks and understanding. The state embarked on mopping-up operations when the agitators' missile attacks on Kabul became unbearable. While we have not closed at all any doors to negotiations with any one, Golboddin Hekmatyar personally so far has not requested negotiations. However, we have asked [words indistinct] negotiations. As Hekmatyar does not have this ability, we have closed the path of negotiation with him. We can hold negotiations with Hezb-e Eslami.

The current fighting consists of mopping-up operations directed against the agitator elements who fire missiles on the city. From our point of view Golboddin's group and Hezb-e Eslami are two separate issues. We never had any conflict and disagreement with the Muslim and committed brothers of Hezb-e Eslami. Those members of Hezb-e Eslami who have not taken part in this fighting are our brothers.

In connection with efforts made by esteemed Ayatullah Mohseni, esteemed Professor Rabbani said that he is one of our best scholars who has undertaken valuable efforts to maintain peace and stability. However, the missile attacks by Golboddin hindered the peace efforts of esteemed Mohseni.

In connection with the other groups and their role in the future of the Islamic state, the esteemed president of the Islamic state said that the Islamic State of Afghanistan is not involved in clashes with any other groups, including Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and Jenbash-e Meli Eslami, and does not want to provoke them against Hezb-e Eslami or any other group. Our aim is to establish peace in the country and ensure that our entire Muslim nation will play an important role in the future government.

Rebel Faction Repulsed on Strategic Hill

BK2501125293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1239 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Report by Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Jan 25 (AFP)—Rebel Mojahedin, attempting to capture an army post on a strategic hill top before dawn here Monday, were repulsed by government troops after a fierce fire-fight that lit-up the night sky.

In their second consecutive night assault against defence ministry security posts, the rebels were pushed back from a post no more than 100 metres (yards) from the Intercontinental Hotel.

The sole foreign hotel guest, a computer expert from Finland sent to Kabul to train Afghan technicians in the ministry of communications, said he was woken in the early hours and taken down into the basement for safety.

"The hotel did not come under direct fire but a couple of windows were shot out by stray bullets," he said.

At the foot of the hill government troops behind sandbagged machine gun emplacements face Shi'ite Hazara faction Hezb-e-Wahdat gunmen no more than 25 metres (yards) distant in what has become the front line.

"Because our tanks had pulled out some days ago Wahdat thought our position was weak," said one government soldier. He said under cover of shelling from the ridge line of the mountain just to the west of the Intercontinental, that Wahdat guerrillas had tried to advance on foot and seize the high ground, which would increase their strategic advantage.

Bits of exploded anti-tank rockets, spent bullets and miscellaneous shrapnel were scattered on the main road leading west to Wahdat headquarters, no more than a couple of kilometres away, but Wahdat guards, one only 13 years old, denied involvement in the attack.

"We did not start these clashes. We are trying to keep the name of our party pure, but when they (government forces) pressure us, we have to defend ourselves," the youth said.

Yet earlier, an angry Wahdat guerrilla had stormed into the office of Ayatollah Abdol Ali Mazari, leader of the Iran-backed Wahdat, brandishing his Kalashnikov and threatening dire consequences to "all those who are just seeking the privilage of power."

He said his men had been fighting and taking heavy losses while the leaders just sat at meetings and argued over who should be "King".

"I was on the frontline last night and lost too many of my brothers. Why didn't you answer our radio calls. We had run out of ammunition," he said.

Outside the Wahdat headquarters a group of veiled women had gathered to beg permission to evacuate their homes and carry off some of their valuables.

Without written authorisation, Wahdat guards would not let them through the frontline they claimed.

"Last night a rocket landed in my house. Two of my family are seriously hurt, and my husband has lost his mind. Please help me, these people won't even let me get the wounded to hospital," one weeping woman sobbed.

Defence Ministry spokesmen have been coy about acknowledging the opening of a new battle front with Wahdat, admitting only that "local level clashes" have occurred.

Whether Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's Defence Ministry forces have the manpower and the will to deliver a punitive strike against Wahdat is yet unclear.

Based on past efforts in Kabul, one side or the other generally sues for peace after a week's fighting, and there are clear signs that the front line troops on all sides are weary of continued killing.

Elsewhere in the capital there was little fighting Monday between government troops and Wahdat allies, the hard-line Pushtun faction Hezb-e-Eslami, who have been battling each other for the past seven days.

However a number of rockets landed in the morning, with diplomats reporting hits inside the Turkish and Iranian embassies and near misses to the Italian and French embassies, the Indian ambassador's residence, and the headquarters of the Red Cross.

Immediate casualty figures were not available, but admittances to Kabul's five functioning hospitals have been averaging 120 a day since the fighting began last Tuesday.

Heavy Clashes Continue in Kabul

LD2501142593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] We have received reports from Kabul that clashes between the [Afghan] government forces and Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami are continuing. A Hezb-e Eslami source told the Voice and Vision correspondent in Kabul today that yesterday the Afghan Government tried to take back positions in the Chehelsotun area situated in southwestern Kabul but their attack was repulsed. An Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman, too, while denying the fall of Afghanistan's Military Academy and the Dar-ol Aman Palace in yesterday's clashes, said: The Military Academy and the Dar-ol Aman Palace are still under government control, but the government forces have succeeded in recapturing the Shinah hills and part of Bagrami district from the Hezb-e Eslami forces.

According to the Voice and Vision correspondent in Kabul, yesterday evening the forces of the Supervisory Council [Shura-ye Nezar] under the command of Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, attacked the 37th Regiment's base, which is one of the military bases of Afghanistan's Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, in Kabul. According to a Hezb-e Wahdat official, the clash lasted several hours but those positioned in the base finally repulsed the Supervisory Council's attack.

He added: The Supervisory Council's forces also attacked the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami positions in the Bagh-e Bala pass situated west of Kabul but that attack, too, was repulsed by Hezb-e Wahdat forces.

An Afghan Government official said about these clashes that the present strategy of Borhanoddin Rabbani's government dictates that they should not start a war with Hezb-e Wahdt-e Eslami at present. He described yesterday's clashes between the forces of the Supervisory Council and Hezb-e Wahdat as isolated and local, and added: These clashes were curbed thanks to the vigilance of the government force and Hezb-e Wahdat.

Radio Notes Military Successes Against 'Agitators'

LD2501161793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Golboddin's agitator forces today fired heavy weapons at nonmilitary and residential areas and public and state buildings. An authoritive security source reported to the military section at BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that Golboddin's forces fired 53 SAKR missiles today. The majority of the missiles hit residential areas in the 2d, 3d, 4th, 7th, and 10th wards and martyred and injured a large number of our innocent and defenseless compatriots.

The source added that Golboddin's agitator forces, who have been subjected to heavy attacks by the forces of the Islamic State, are raining missiles on the city. These missiles have hit not only residential and state buildings; diplomatic offices and missions have been considerably damage. Today a number of missiles hit the Italian and Iranian embassies, the residence of the Indian ambassador, and near the office of the Red Cross.

Air and artillery attacks were carried out against the missile positions of Golboddin's agitator forces. An authoritive source at the Defense Ministry of the Islamic State of Afghanistan reported to a BIA correspondent that heavy air and artillery attacks were carried out against the missile positions of the agitators in southern and southeast Kabul. The agitators suffered heavy casualties and a number of the enemy's heavy weapons and missiles were destroyed. The enemy's heavy artillery positions in the south of the city were destroyed.

The source added that the attacks on enemy positions will continue until all possibility of firing missiles on the innocent people of the city is removed. The forces of the Islamic State, thank God, have not taken any casualities, while a number of agitator elements have been eliminated.

The source added that a large number of missiles fired by the agitators landed on residential areas, state offices, and diplomatic missions in Kabul. These missiles—SAKR-type missiles—have been launched from long range and have caused considerable financial damage.

India

Further Reportage on John Major's Visit to Delhi

Calls For Peaceful Kashmir Settlement

BK2501130293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Britain will support restarting of bilateral political process between India and Pakistan. This was conveyed by the visiting British prime minister, Mr. John Major, during his two-hour talks with the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. He said that all peaceful means should be used to settle the Kashmir problem. Mr. Major said that his government is opposed to terrorism, extremism, and secessionism. He appreciated India's commitment to secularism. The two leaders had wide-ranging talks on issues covering all aspects of Indo-British relations. Prospects of relations in the immediate future were discussed in the context of pressure on Britain with respect to developments in Europe and that of India in relation to developments in the subcontinent. Mr. Narasimha Rao informed Mr. Major about the improved situation in Punjab and the government's efforts to normalize the situation in Kashmir. He also underlined India's willingness to build good- neighborly relations with all the countries, including Pakistan, as long as genuine response is there from the other side.

News Conference, Talks With Leaders Reported

BK2501162893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] The visiting British prime minister, Mr. John Major, has said that some recent security threats are due to the British Government's commitment to implement the Indo-British extradition treaty awaiting ratification by the British Parliament. Addressing a crowded news conference in New Delhi this evening, Mr. Major said whatever be the threat, the necessity of the treaty will remain. He said he was entirely content with the security arrangements in India for his visit.

Earlier, summing up his meetings and talks in New Delhi, Mr. Major said that he agreed to come to India for three reasons—political, economic, and to further commercial links with India. The British prime minister said:

[Begin Major recording] Politically, I have been able to reaffirm our support for India's deep-rooted democracy. I think it is extremely important and remarkable achievements have been made over the past 40 years or so. In particular, I welcome the strength with which the Indian Government has reaffirmed its commitment to the rule of law, to the secular Constitution, and to tolerance and protection to minorities. In our discussions today, I reaffirmed our cooperation, our joint cooperation in the fight against terrorism. And I have confirmed also that we are fully committed to using our law to this end. I had the opportunity, with the prime minister in particular, of discussing the issue of greatest concern to them and their neighbor Pakistan, namely Kashmir. I believe that it is essentially an issue for the two governments themselves to resolve, albeit with the strong encouragement of their friends. The principles which underlir our approach to this problem, I think, are well known. We wish to see a dialogue between India and Pakistan, a genuine political process in Kashmir and respect for human rights, and an end to external support to violence in Kashmir.

On the economic front, I was very pleased to hear from the prime minister of India's determination to pursue her program of economic reform and liberalization. Today it is a very clear, clarion call to the future that forms the central part of India's policies. And one of the things that emerged from my discussions and from the separate discussions with British businessmen has been the commitment of all concerned to that reform and the belief that that reform is already bringing results. [end recording].

Mr. Major also announced a joint collaboration project between British Gas and the Gas Authority of India for supply of natural gas in Bombay of the value of 100 million pounds. He also said that the Hindustan Aeronautics—HAL—and the British Aerospace had also signed a memorandum of understanding for setting up a joint company for development and manufacture of complex computer software which will be fully export oriented.

Earlier, the director general of the Confederation of British Industries, Mr. (Howard Davis), who has come with Mr. Major, told newsmen that the trip of the high-powered British business delegation has been outstandingly successful. Asked if the Ayodhya developments and communal riots in their aftermath have discouraged British investment, Mr. (Davis) said that these were political events and will not deter British businessmen from going ahead with investment in India.

Earlier, in his talks with Mr. Narasimha Rao, the British prime minister supported restarting of bilateral political process between India and Pakistan. Both Mr. Major and Mr. Rao had wide-ranging talks on issues covering all aspects of Indo-British relations. Mr. Narasimha Rao informed Mr. Major about the improved situation in Punjab and the government's efforts to normalize the situation in Kashmir. He also underlined India's willingness to build good- neighborly relations with all the countries, including Pakistan, as long as genuine response is there from the other side. Later, both India and Britain signed an agreement to avoid double taxation.

Commentary Views News Conference

BK2601034793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Commentary by M.K. Tikku of THE HINDUSTAN TIMES]

[Text] In the years since the British left the Indian shores at the end of the raj [rule] in 1947, Indo-British relations have been through several ups and downs. There have been times when the perceptions of the two countries have differed vastly on a number of global and regional issues. At other times, the intellectual and cultural links developed through the historical association have asserted themselves. The British Prime Minister Mr. John Major's current visit to India comes at a time when the views and perceptions of the two governments have found a measure of convergence rarely witnessed in the past 45 years. This is a point that Mr. Major emphasized during his press conference in New Delhi yesterday evening. This is also a point that calls for a deeper look for a better understanding of the changing texture of Indo-British relations.

In the mid-80's, Indian and British perceptions of such problems of apartheid in South Africa had differed widely. The problem of apartheid having resolved itself to a large extent since then, the differences too have automatically disappeared. Likewise, a subject on which Indian sensitivities have been ruffled in the past concern such issues as the problems of terrorism in first Punjab and later Kashmir and the training and support that such elements received from outside the country. In fact, it was difficult for many people in this country to understand why Britain, which itself had been embroiled in a long and bitter fight against terrorism in Northern Ireland, was not better appreciative of the Indian concerns. Nevertheless, the British response to such sensitivities has been evolving in the last couple of years.

To understand how much the British position has veered round on these vital issues, one has barely to recall that, as recently as a few weeks ago, Britain had offered to mediate between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. Yet, it did not take Britain long to appreciate that a framework for resolving the Indo-Pakistan differences already existed under the Simla agreement; and further, such differences would be best resolved through bilateral exchanges rather than third party intervention. It was thus that, during his news conference and later in an interview over Doordarshan, Mr. John Major emphasized the bilateral resolution of Indo-Pakistani differences. All that friends such as Britain could offer in these endeavors was, as he put it, encouragement. With the achievement of such a degree of congruity in the views and perceptions of the two countries, the ground appears to have been laid for closer interactive relations. The high ranking business delegation accompanying the British prime minister is in fact already engaged in talking business with its Indian counterparts.

Official Statement on Rao-Major Talks

BK2501150393 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1440 GMT 25 Jan 93

["Official spokesman's statement on the meeting between Indian prime minister and visiting British prime minister in the morning of January 25, 1993"—ISI headline]

[Text] The two prime ministers had a two-hour meeting this morning. This was followed by a half hour session. There was wide-ranging exchange of views between the two prime ministers covering all aspects of Indo-British relations. Prospects of relations in the immediate future were discussed in the context of pressures on Britain with respect to the developments in Europe and on India with respect to the developments in the sub-continent. The discussions also included India's relations with its neighbours after the Ayodhya incidents. Matters elating to external intervention in Punjab and Kashmir, economic cooperation including joint-ventures were also discussed. Prime Minister Major expressed his appreciation and his support for India's commitment to secularism and stated that all peaceful means available to resolve the Kashmir issue should be explored. He also stated that the British Govt. too would be supportive of re-starting the bilateral political process with Pakistan. Our prime minister informed Prime Minister Major about the improved situation in Punjab, our govt.'s efforts to normalise the situation in Kashmir and underlined India's willingness to structure good-neighbourly relations with all our neighbours including Pakistan as long as there was genuine responsiveness from the other side.

Our prime minister also conveyed that India will hold a stable course in its economic reforms and policies. The two prime ministers also exchanged views on the situation in Europe over issues of multilateral nature nature such as disarmament and non- proliferation and the need to reduce expenditures on defence, so as to avoid diversion of resources from developmental needs. Prime Minister Major informed our prime minister about post-Maastricht developments in Europe, developments in the Balkans, apart from discussing commercial and economic cooperation. In the official talks between the delegations, the focus was on an increase in technical and economic cooperation and the increase in British investment in India. The Indian side also conveyed its appreciation with regard to the 'extradition treaty' and related agreements. Prime Minister Major mentioned that the British Govt. opposed terrorism, extremism, and secessionism.

After the official talks, the two prime ministers met with the high-level British business group. The group gave detailed presentation of their discussions with their Indian counterparts as well as the briefing they had received from senior Indian officials. The two prime ministers were appreciative of their analysis and expressed their optimism about strengthening of cooperation in the industrial and technological areas. The British business group and their Indian counterparts have decided to sign a memorandum of understanding to concretise the ideas presented in the joint Indo- British partnership initiative. Both sides would report on actual progress made after a year to each prime minister respectively. Prime Minister Major told the British group that he was sanguine about increased Indo-British economic cooperation. Our prime minister informed

them that despite recent disturbances in India, there should be no doubt about the overall stability and the stability tf the economic policies of India. He re-affirmed India's commitment to democracy, human rights and a practical approach to economic issues.

An agreement was signed on 'Avoidance of Double Taxation'. It was also decided that discussions should commence towards an agreement for private sector investment guarantees.

Grants TV Interview

BK2501184093 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1642 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Interview with British Prime Minister John Major by Rajiv Mehrotra; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mehrotra] Mr. Major, welcome to India. You come at a time of great anguish to India and I think there is a sense of profound appreciation for Britain's support to India's efforts in combating terrorism and in September 1992, you signed an extradition treaty and the confiscation agreement. What was the impetus to sign that agreement?

[Major] Well, India is a very old friend, of course. We have many shared interests. The particular impetus to the agreement on extradition was the joint views shared by the British Government, the Indian Government, and indeed many other governments around the world that terrorism was an international problem and one of the ways of dealing with it was through extradition treaties. I hope we will be able to ratify it before long.

[Mehrotra] Terrorism frequently becomes a platform for external religious, secessionist movements. You had a problem with Northern Ireland. What becomes a legitimate response for a state, particularly when that perhaps has been fueled by neighboring countries from across the borders?

[Major] Oh, sir, I don't wish to enter into any particular disputes, so many of them around the world. But states like everyone else have to obey the law. That is true in every part of the world, there is a law and no state can legitimately be apart of the law. [as heard] Terrorism operates entirely outside the law. And it is for that reason that I believe it is legitimate, indeed necessary, the states are bound together and take special actions against the international danger of terrorism, and that is what we always believe.

[Mehrotra] Frequently that platform for terrorism has origins, especially in religion. It is happening in Bosnia, the problem that Kashmir confronts, and the latest is the incidents happening in Northern Ireland. Is there a unique response to that, state needs to look at differently from domestic terrorism become motivated by, like nationalism, perhaps? [sentence as heard]

[Major] I don't think it is so much the motive, it is the action which determines whether someone is behaving like a terrorist, it is the action [words indistinct] and I think that is a view that is taken in many parts of the world.

[Mehrotra] Recently, the British government has said that the Simla agreement applies wholly and exclusively as to the Kashmir issue. What role do you think that Britain might play in facilitating a dialogue between India and Pakistan (?this time)?

[Major] I think one needs to be perfectly clear what one means by facilitating a dialogue. The particular problems of Kashmir can only be solved by Pakistan and by India. Third parties cannot solve that problem for them. As friends of India and Pakistan, as a fellow member of the Commonwealth, we are keen to see the problem solved. We are keen to see a dialogue between the two nations. We are keen to see a political process. We are keen to see any external funding or action that leads to militancy within Kashmir and adds to the problem. [sentence as heard] So, we stand, as it were, as a friendly advocate at the side It is not our job to be in the middle. We cannot solve the problem. We can encourage the two nations themselves to look at the problem and determine themselves how best to solve it.

[Mehrotra] Are there any specific processes, or dialogues or initiatives that you have in mind or have proposed to facilitate this process?

[Major] Even if I had, I think it will be indelicate for me to talk about it and I think it is predominantly and I mean it profoundly. It is a matter that must be determined between India and Pakistan, and I am not myself sure that external details of rights would necessarily be helpful to the solution of the problem. That is what we wish to see.

[Mehrotra] The United States government has sought to put pressure on Pakistan. There have been statements urging Pakistan to desist from supporting terrorism in Kashmir. Does the British Government share that perception?

[Major] We are keen to see both nations get together and talk. In the Commonwealth, we have very close relationship perhaps than other nations with India certainly and with Pakistan as well. I think it is our view that quiet diplomacy and persuasion is the way to put the maximum pressure on everyone for a solution to this long-standing and very difficult problem.

[Mehrotra] Editorial opinion in your country has been somewhat critical of your visit to India at this time because recession seems to have set in deep, growing unemployment, businesses—small and large—are closing down. What prompts you to come to India this time? What you are looking to achieve?

[Major] I don't think that there is a general view of criticism. I think the majority view in the United Kingdom is that our very long-standing relationship with India is very important. It is perhaps as good today if not

better than it has been for many years. This is a very good opportunity to review political areas where there is a necessity for dialogue between the Governments of India and the United Kingdom and also our growing commercial relationship, though I think that the predominant view is that it is a very wise thing to have this visit and I share that view.

[Mehrotra] At a time when your own economy is struggling to compete globally, you bring a large contingent of rich businessmen with you on this visit. What does Britain have to offer to India at this time in terms of India's own effort of economic restructuring?

[Major] Well, I think you made too much of the difficulties in your question. There are many areas where Britain is still very much at the leading edge of technology. We have some of the largest and most competent companies in the world. They take technology all around the world. Many of our companies are world leaders and some of those are actually here in India at the moment. We have a great degree of confidence in the United Kingdom in the future of India as the world's largest democracy. The companies that have accompanied me on this visit see a great future economically and industrially and commercially for India and that is why they are here. And they are here to discuss with the Indian government and to discuss with Indian companies joint ventures and prospects that will provide, I believe, both prosperity and employment and greater trade patterns within India.

[Mehrotra] Less than half a century ago Britain was the greatest power in the world, that power has dwindled substantially. What have been the sweeping lessons of history? What do you think Britain has learned from the last 50 years of its sweeping power and what role do you see for Britain in the future?

[Major] I think Britain has a very substantial role. If you look at Britain's relationship with different countries around the world, we are at the heart of the European Community, the largest free trade area in the world. And we are still the significant part of the British Commonwealth—that's a remarkable collection of nations, unique in the history of the world. We have a longstanding and very special relationship with the United States. I know of no other nation, diplomatically and economically that is at the center of such a hub.

[Mehrotra] There is concern among the Third World intellectuals about the new assertiveness of the United Nations, perhaps perceived to be led and nudged by the Western developed industrialized nations, to intervene in what might once have been considered internal affairs of nations or bilateral affairs in Iraq, Somalia, Bosnia. Where do you think the fine line rests? Do you think one day it might be Northern Ireland, Armenia, Tibet, or Kashmir?

[Major] I think you have to look at each of those individual problems as they arise and see what can be done by the international community as a whole. The United Nations is a very remarkable institution. It is perhaps more accepted around the world as an international forum today than it was even three or four years ago. A larger number of countries play an active role in the United Nations. It is not just the permanent five in the Security Council who make decisions. It is a very wide degree of consultation right the way across the United Nations. And much of that operates on consensus and that consensus must be shown in votes of the United Nations. The particular action against Iraq of course after their invasion of Kuwait was authorized by the United Nations. When the mandate had concluded and the Iraqis had been forced out of Kuwait, the Western powers and their allies did not go right into Baghdad. It was not their job to do that, was not their job to break up Iraq. It was their job to get Iraq out of Kuwait. They then finished their mandate and they finished their action. Thereafter, the United Nations collectively set down certain Security Council resolutions requiring certain actions from Iraq. It was only when Iraq failed to even live up to that action that certain difficulty has arisen. Our wish, certainly Britain's wish, I believe that's true of other members of the United Nations, is simply that Iraq will obey the Security Council resolutions, and I believe it is ensured that they do.

[Mehrotra] But, don't you think that the activism of the United Nations has been shifted after the end of the cold war, and the unquiet peace of the cold war, and in the context of an increasingly unipolar world that the United Nations is beginning to represent the interests of the Western alliance?

[Major] No, I don't believe that. I think the United Nations is a force for good, and I know of no other force that can look at so many of the other international problems and seek to find a solution. The United Nations is not an aggressive entity. It is an entity which seeks to bring peace where there is war and helps whereever there are problems. That is the purpose of the United Nations, and it stands as a servant not of one nation or any small group of nations, it stands as the servant of all the nations and members of the United Nations.

[Mehrotra] The Western media is really beginning to define values and to define the problems and the vocabulary with which Third World problems are looked at globally. Are you concerned about the overwhelming power of the media?

[Major] I think the media is very powerful. I think that is undoubtedly true. But that is a fact of life with which we have to live. I think we have seen time and time again in history that the power of thought and the power of people's instincts and their cultures and their history is very strong indeed, and I have no doubt that will survive through time.

[Mehrotra] Hong Kong has long been a British colony. What has prompted Britain at this time, a few years prior

to handing the colony back to China, to accelerate the process of democratic reforms?

[Major] We agreed with the Chinese some time ago how we would act between now and 1997. We are acting as we agreed under the joint declaration and in accordance with the Basic Law.

[Mehrotra] Western [words indistinct]...

[Major interrupts] No, that question I answered.

[Mehrotra] Why has the process of democratic reforms been accelerated at this time and not 15-20 years ago?

[Major] We are responding to the needs of people there and requests of people there. We will undoubtedly see the results of the elections. We will undoubtedly know what people say. We will undoubtedly know of the agreement with China for what is known as the through train to take the democracy and a range of other matters up to 1997 and through 1997.

[Mehrotra] We are concerned in India too and inevitably there will be a problem for the Chinese Government to confront about the future of the Indians in Hong Kong.

[Major] No, the Indians in Hong Kong have the same rights as every other citizen in Hong Kong and will continue to have them.

[Mehrotra] On a more personal level, Mr. Prime Minister, someone who left school at 16, your family business failed after three years, in Mrs. Thatcher's cabinet, you hold the highest elected office in the United Kingdom. [sentence as heard] To what do you attribute your success and astounding resilience in politics?

[Major] If I had spent my time thinking about that, perhaps I would not be sitting here. I am more concerned of the practical problems I have to face today and the sort of future we are going to build tomorrow.

[Mehrotra] Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister.

[Major] Thank you.

Rao Speaks at Banquet Honoring Major

BK2601035093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] India and Britain have agreed that the threats posed by religious fundamentalism and ethnic chauvinism should be firmly countered. The two countries also expressed their firm conviction that stoppage of external support to terrorist activities is essential for the promotion of a democratic political process. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting British prime minister in New Delhi, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, called for rejection of bigotry in any form. He said some unwelcome trends emerge from time to time because of India's diversity. These are, however, corrected by the intrinsic resilience of India's traditions and institutions and also the innate maturity of the people.

In his reply, Mr. John Major said India's influence as a stable democracy will be more important now than ever before. Referring to the Kashmir issue, he said Britain is of the view that the problem can be solved through a genuine political dialogue under the Simla Agreement and the cessation of external support for the militants there.

Earlier, talking to newsmen, Mr. Major said that his country seeks to extend investment for India's on-going economic reforms. He said Mr. Narasimha Rao is giving personal support to such investment. Mr. Major said India is the world's 14th largest economy and more British investment will further India's economic reforms. He added that India is opening its doors to the world to attract more foreign investment. This is evident from a series of visits of foreign heads of state to India like that of Russian President Mr. Boris Yeltsin starting tomorrow and of German Chancellor Helmut Kohl next month.

Indo-British Economic Ties Viewed

BK2501053093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Commentary on Indo-British Economic Relations by N.K. Chakraborty of HINDUSTAN TIMES]

[Text] The British prime minister, Mr. John Major, will be having important discussions in New Delhi today with the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, which will have a significant impact on the future growth of Indo-British economic relations.

The sweeping liberalization of the Indian economy since July 1991 and specially the recent ordinance removing restrictions on the foreign firms operations in India have opened up new opportunities for a higher level of Indo-British cooperation. Britain is one of India's top trading partners. Further, Britain has got about two billion pounds of investments in India spread over 250 companies. Mr. Major has brought with him a top-level business delegation comprising the chief executives of some of the leading companies of Britain. During this visit, the people from British industry will be discussing with Indian officials, as also Indian industry, about new areas of collaboration and investment. The companies represented at the delegation include British Aerospace, ICI, British American Tobacco, ANZ Grindlays Bank, GPT, and Rolls Royce.

British firms are now willing to share their manpower, expertise, and quality control skills with their Indian partners and discussions will be held in New Delhi during the visit. A new Indo- British partnership initiative providing an institutional framework to the bilateral cooperation between the two countries in trade and

industry might be launched during this visit. Certain sectors of British economy particularly coal, railways, and construction, which are facing serious problems due to recessionary conditions in that country, as also in some other parts of the developed world including Japan, Germany, and the United States are looking to India for shifting their production base to some of the developing countries, including India, to minimize their cost of production to give effective competition. This situation has made the Indian market highly attractive for the induction of British expertise and investment. It is quite in the cards that some new joint ventures will be announced during this visit of the British prime minister and the areas include power generation, telecommunication, food processing and information technology. The visit of this high-profile delegation from Britain within two months of the developments at Ayodhya underlines that the foreign investors have confidence in long-term potential of the Indian economy and its growth prospects.

Commentary Reviews Cooperation

BK2501120993 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Commentary by journalist Bhushan Raina entitled: "Indo-British Relations"]

[Text] The dawn of 1993 promises a far greater interaction than ever before between the people and the Governments of India and Britain. Never before had there been so many opportunities available to the two countries to come still closer and work unitedly for international peace and human dignity. The visit of the British prime minister, Mr. John Major, is a singular landmark in the developing relations between the two countries. This is for the first time in the history of independent India that the British prime minister is to be the chief guest at this year's Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi. This is also the first visit by a British prime minister in the last 12 years.

The relationship between the people of India and Britain extends back to over four centuries. Over the years, it has developed into a complex and mutually rewarding partnership between people who share the same fundamental commitment to democracy and to the pursuit of international peace. Irrespective of what the historians say about the empire and of British rule in India, one cannot dispute the fact that the political values and administrative and legal structure that Britain bequeathed to India continue to have a profound influence on Indian public life. The Indo-British relationship can best be quantified in the fact that India and Britain (?now) share a similarity of views on major international issues. The two also share a strong bilateral trade relationship and Indian immigrants to England manage some of the most professionally and technically qualified jobs in the country.

Undoubtedly, Britain, which is a long way from the subcontinent, deserves a special place in India's rating of dependable friends against whom we have no ill feelings except the memory of unpleasant chapter of India's long history which is best forgotten. The government in New Delhi has over the past two years worked consistently to further the relations into a blend of similarity of political views on issues that confront the two countries. Needless to say that Britain has also reciprocated warmly.

The two crucial issues which reflect the Indo-British relationship are Kashmir and the activities of the (?known) Khalistani [supporters of a separate Sikh state] elements in Britain. On Kashmir issue, the British Government has made its position very clear. The British Government has made it known that it has no sympathy for those who (?espouse) violence for political ends. It has also expressed itself strongly against internationalizing Kashmir issue and has favored a mutual settlement between India and Pakistan in the framework of Simla agreement. The British Government has also committed itself in no uncertain terms to check the use of their soil by Khalistani protagonists or Kashmir militants. The two countries also signed an extradition treaty last year which is a very strong evidence of the independence [as heard] of the two countries.

More than political bondage, it is the social bondage between the people of the two countries which has been growing year after year. Today, there are an estimated 1 million Indians who have established homes and businesses in the United Kingdom. They continue making important contribution to Britain's economic and cultural life. Over 150,000 Indians visit Britain every year, while India plays host to more than 2,000 [as heard] visitors from Britain every year. Such is the wealth of India's shared heritage that Englishmen and Indians never feel like strangers in either country.

India and Britain have been traditional partners in trade and industrial cooperation. India's bilateral trade stands at around 2,500 million pounds as for today. This indeed is a commendable performance, but future prospects promise to be even better. India is now one of the world's largest economies, while on the other hand, Britain is today the second largest overseas investor in the world and cumulatively remains still the largest foreign investor in India. To coincide with Prime Minister John Major's visit, the British Overseas Development Cooperation has announced new aid grants to India worth 90 million pounds sterling.

Accord Signed for Indo-British Joint Venture Company

BK2501002893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Engineers India Limited—EIL—and the (Amek) Engineering International of Britian today signed an agreement in New Delhi to form and Indo-British Joint Venture Company. The new company will operate in the

field of process technology, engineering, equipment fabrication, and construction. It will also look for opportunities for oil exploration in Africa, West Asia, and Southeast Asia.

Republic Day Ceremonies, Military Parade Reported

BK2601062293

[Editorial Report] Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi and English at 0355 GMT on 26 January carries live coverage of the ceremonies and parade to mark India's 44th Republic Day.

The opening shots are of the promenade along the Rajpath avenue leading to the President's House, the reviewing stand where President Shankar Dayal Sharma will stand to view the salutes of the parade as the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and the people assembled on both sides of Rajpath. .

English commentator Komal G.B. Singh announces that "a few minutes before 1000 [0430 GMT], the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, will arrive with a ceremonial escort. With him will be the British prime minister, Mr. John Major, the chief guest at this morning's parade. In fact, he is the first British prime minister to be accorded this honor." The commentator adds that "Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, will visit the Amar Jawan Jyoti [Memorial of Immortal Soldiers] at India Gate where he will lead the nation in paying homage to the immortal soldiers."

At 0410 GMT, Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's motorcade arrives at the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate. He is accompanied by Defense Minister Sharad Pawar, Minister of State for Defense Mallikarjun and three chiefs of the armed forces. Rao leads the nation in paying homage to the Immortal Soldiers by laying a wreath at the memorial and staying two minutes in silence.

At 0420 GMT, Narasimha Rao is seen arriving at the reviewing stand. A few minutes later, Vice President K.R. Narayanan arrives in a motorcade and is welcomed by Narasimha Rao. The Hindi commentator Jasjit Singh says the audience includes central ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, members of parliament, and senior government officials. The official members of the high-powered delegation accompanying John Major to India are also present this morning.

President Sharma, accompanied by John Major, arrives at 0428 GMT in a motorcade escorted by the President's Bodyguards Cavalry. They are welcomed by Narasimha Rao. President Sharma unfurls the national flag as the national anthem is played and a 21-gun salute booms out in the background.

President Sharma then awards posthumously the military award Ashoke Chakra to Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh for valor and sacrifice in an encounter with "Pakistan-trained" terrorists on 5 December 1992 in Pulwama District of Kashmir.

The military parade begins at 0437 GMT and is led by Major General Satish Chander Kashyap, general officer commanding of the Delhi area. The parade displays T-72 tanks, 155-MM guns, auxiliary power units, multi-barrel rocket launchers with a 21-km range, the latest acquisition of Indian Army Stellar 10-M Missile System providing air defense against low level helicopter attacks, BM-2 infantry combat vehicles, 30-MM artilley guns, anti-tank missiles, Super 530-D air-to-air missiles, R-27 and R-1 missiles, as well as marching contingents of three wings of the armed forces to the tunes of military bands and columns of paramilitary and police forces.

Unlike previous years, the parade does not display air force planes and naval vessels.

The parade, which ends at 0510 GMT, is followed by 16 decorated tableux from different states, union territories, and public sector undertakings presenting a panorama of the cultural heritage of the country and cultural shows by students.

The coverage ends at 0557 GMT with the salute by the President's Bodyguards Cavalry, the playing of the national anthem and the departure of President Sharma, accompanied by Prime Minister John Major, for the President's House in a motorcade escorted by the President's Bodyguards Cavalry.

Throughout the coverage, the video periodically displays captions in Hindi and English: "Do not spread rumours, spread peace; peace, love, understanding, let this be our religion; discard hatred, shun religious bigotry, reject fanaticism, do not let divisive forces tear the secular fabric of our country."

President Sharma's Republic Day Message

BK2501160893 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1442 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Message to the nation by Indian President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma on 25 January on the eve of Republic Day; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Fellow citizens, brothers and sisters! Tomorrow our nation celebrates Republic Day. On this auspicious occasion, I have great pleasure in extending to you and to Indians beyond our shores my greetings and good wishes. Forty-three years ago, on the 26th of January 1950, the Constitution of India came into force, representing the values, goals and solemn resolve of the people of India, mindful of history and conscious of the challenges and the vistas ahead. That ethos which sustained India over thousands of years—imminent, invincible, and strength-giving—finds expression in our Constitution and lays the path toward the well- being, dignity and happiness of all. The ideals, philosophy, and vision inlaid to our Constitution integrate us as one nation and make our dreams for a better future attainable. By firm

adherence to the composite thought in our Constitution, notwithstanding a wide range of obstacles, we have made decisive progress in many spheres of national reconstruction. Innumerable successes—big and small—have been gained by patriotic effort vitalized by the practical idealism in our Constitution. Conversely, almost all our problems have resulted from inadequacies or failures in availing of the wisdom of our constitutional thought.

Fellow citizens, ponder carefully for what I say for today having come thus far since independence. [sentence as heard] India stands at the crossroads of history and our destiny will be as we shape it to be. Two prospects have emerged before us. On the one hand is the path of understanding, peace, mutual accommodation, friendship, cooperation and common endeavor—each strengthening the other. This will confer to every community, region, and individual in our vast and populous nation a position of dignity, prosperity, and happiness. Progressively we would surmount every ill and problem besetting us—be it poverty, prejudice, insecurity, ignorance, or disease. Dynamically, our nation can develop and transform itself and ascend from strength to strength and be a force for the good of all humanity. This vision is within our reach. We have the talent, the resources, and the chance to secure it. Our ancient land has been thus before. Our Constitution is a beacon to this very destination.

The other prospect is of endless strife, suffering, agony, and misery wrought by narrow thinking, word or deed. Need anyone explain this? How much more should we be witness to before we decide to abjure communalism and unmask and shun the purveyor of that poisonous (?breed). Communalism poses a devastating threat to every individual, to every sector—social, economic, and political, indeed to our entire nation. Those misguided few who spread communal prejudice and engage in or incite communal violence have to be recognized as ushering ruination for all, including themselves. Subscribing to communal outlook in India is a supreme folly, but some persist in it and some others fall prey to it. Communalism begets communalism. Ultimately, none gains, all lose when communal thinking holds sway over us. The recent recurrence of fighting and violence is telling proof, if any further proofs were required, of the inevitable, tragic consequences of communalism.

My heart goes out to the innocents, the women and the children victimized. Who can recompense the loss of life or of dignity or an atmosphere of kinship and oneness marred by fear and suspicion? The masses, the poor, and the weak suffered the most. They are the first to be struck and the last to recover. Who can adequately reimburse their losses in wages, livelihood, and shelter? It is essential for all to comprehend the criticality of this issue and other crucial aspects, also. So long as the problem of communalism vexes us, our capability as a nation is curtailed in key task of building a self-reliant, competitive economy, creating gainful employment, enhancing per capita income level, and developing the aggregate wherewithal of a welfare of state—the total focus of national attention is diverted. Our national security is rendered vulnerable to the machination of elements from outside.

As the constitutional head of the the republic, I shall endeavor to do all I need to safeguard the national interests and the well- being of all in our composite pluralistic culture and polity.

Friends! India has been the home of all the great religions and the simple truth is that there is a oneness in our doctrines of ethical teachings in all religions. We Indians must need appreciate this. Religion is therefore as far apart from communalism, as a [word indistinct] is from the profane, or good is from evil. As one people, one nation, one republic, we must set our souls against communalism and stamp out every vestige of it. We must be resolute and unflinching in this. Only then shall we be able to save and serve our diverse modes of devotion—true to our faith and our motherland. We shall prove ourselves in the period ahead dutifully as a mother tends a child, the farmer his field, the worker his machine, the soldier his weapon. So should every organ and entity in our system of parliamentary democracy strive zealously and meticulously to fulfill the designated roles in the various interlinked areas of national reconstruction. The legislature, executive, and judiciary have an increasingly important role to play, as thus, the press with full scope of performance of rightful duty. That rules our struggle for freedom, the civil services, armed forces, our scientists, engineers and teachers, doctors, writers, poets and artists, our social and voluntary activists; and especially the women of India comprise a tremendous wealth of talent, energy, and dedication.

It is essential that all participate with determination to uphold the rule of law, to safeguard and enlarge the gains of freedom and, to give to the children of India an environment of harmony, purity, productive endeavor, and happiness. Let us in the spirit of national solidarity strive together to fulfill the creative agenda for a new India, an India at peace with herself, true to her time-tested ethical and moral values, manifesting her unique genius in a myriad ways—an India the world can look up to.

Friends! On behalf of all of you, I would like to express our faith in the resilience of the ethos of India. Our nation's inner strength and determination to overcome every challenge and fully secure our clearly defined national goals. The eyes of the world look upon us. The message of India to our neighborhood and to the rest of the world has been and will be peace, friendship, and cooperation. We shall continue to play a vigilant and creative role in world affairs for the good of all humankind. Tomorrow, on our 44th Republic Day, when we unfurl national tricolor, let us tell us our flag our freedom reiterates our national resolve and rededicate ourselves to our motherland.

Brothers and sisters! May reason guide us and may every citizen be a light unto himself and a friend to his neighbor. So may India be glorious. Jai Hind [hail India].

Muslim Leader Calls For Protests on Republic Day

BK2301050693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0448 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 23 (AFP)—An Indian Muslim leader reiterated Saturday his call for a boycott of next week's Republic Day celebrations to denounce the mass killings of Muslims and branded his critics "government stooges."

Ahmed Bukhari, deputy priest [as received] of India's largest mosque, said Muslims would not join the celebrations because they were being killed by Hindu militants and security forces across the country.

"We are determined to observe a black day (on Tuesday)," Bukhari said in an interview. "When Muslims are being butchered, no one can force us to join the festivities. We will boycott the Republic Day (celebrations)."

Bukhari said Muslims, the largest minority in India, should hoist black flags on their homes Tuesday to protest large-scale attacks on them since the razing of the ancient Babri mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu zealots last month.

Hundreds have been killed in bloody Hindu-Muslim violence across India since the Ayodhya sacrilege. Most victims have been Muslims.

Bukhari added some 500 Muslims would march to parliament Tuesday from his 17th century Jama Masjid (mosque) to "express our anger. If the police stop us, we will offer ourselves for arrest."

Bukhari's call to observe the Republic Day, observed every January 26, as a black day has been widely criticised, including by scores of Muslims, who total more than 100 million in Hindu-majority India.

But Bukhari dismissed his criticism as "government stooges."

"They are people who do not have a sense of shame," he said. "They don't speak out when clouds of death hang over the community. They speak whatever the government wants them to speak."

On Friday, several Muslim movie stars, cricketeers, journalists and scientists urged the community to ignore Bukhari's "boycott Republic Day" call.

"We share the agony of all who suffered in the course of violence in various parts of the country, but Republic Day is not the proper occasion for a protest," they said in a joint statement.

"It is an occasion to affirm our common fraternity, respect for the rule of law and the majesty of the constitution," the statement added.

Another Muslim leader, Syed Shahabuddin, who had given a similar protest call on Republic Day in 1987, also termed Bukhari's appeal "irresponsible". He said it would only strengthen Hindu fundamentalists.

British Prime Minister John Major will be the chief guest at Tuesday's Republic Day celebrations here which will include a display of India's military might.

Manipur Requests Paramilitary Forces To Fight Rebels

BK2401163493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] The Manipur chief minister, Mr. Dorendra Singh, has urged the Center to send eight more battalions of paramilitary forces to tackle law and order situation and insurgent activities in the state. The state chief secretary, now in New Delhi, apprised the cabinet secretary of the prevailing situation in the state. A state government press release says that insurgents have started infiltrating into Manipur following strengthening of security measures in Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Tripura in view of the forthcoming assembly elections. The chief minister has appealed to the underground activists to join the peace talks without any precondition. He made this appeal at a function at Moerong in Manipur.

BBC Report on Kidnap of Congress Leader Denied

BK2601031493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesman has denied the BBC report that a senior Congress-I leader of Kashmir, Mr. Iftikhar Hussain Ansari, has been kidnapped. The spokesman said that Mr. Ansari is free, hale, and hearty and the governor, Mr. Saxena, spoke to him on the phone yesterday.

Claims of LTTE-Supplied Arms to Rioters in Bombay

BK2301114293 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 14 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Madras, 14 Jan.—The plot hatched by the cadres of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE], who escaped from Valur Prison, has come to light now. Four Tigers who supplied arms [to rioters] in Bombay have been arrested.

Sixteen Tigers, who were imprisoned in Valur Prison, escaped during heavy rains last November. The 'Q' Branch police [special antiterrorist squad of the Tamil Nadu police] launched an intensive inquiry to nab them. Nine later surrendered to police. The police only disclosed that the escaped Tigers had surrendered.

A Tiger by the of name Chandran (29) was arrested at Egmore Railway Station in Madras on 5 January. On the day after his arrest, he committed suicide by jumping from the first floor of the office of the director general of police. Three policemen, including a head constable, were suspended from service following the incident. Police said that Chandran was trained by the LTTE and that he was a member of an extremist organization called Tamilar Pasarai based in Trichy. This organization is led by Elangovan, who is now said to be with the LTTE in Sri Lanka. Reports indicate that Chandran came to Tamil Nadu to indulge in subversive activities and that a 10-member suicide squad of the LTTE had accompanied him. Lethal weapons and bombs were seized from Chandran.

Tamilar Pasarai members, who were trained by the LTTE, helped the Tigers escape from Velur Prison. They and the escaped Tigers together hatched several conspiracies. After their escape, the Tigers were not only roaming in Tamil Nadu, but were staying in major cities like Bombay and were fabricating suversive designs. Major conspiracies like blowing up the Nehru Stadium [in Madras] were hatched out there only. It is understood that Chandran came to Madras to assess the situation prior to blowing up the Nehru Stadium. This information was obtained during an inquiry held on Chandran. He also gave details about the Tigers who were staying in Bombay. Thereafter, the 'Q' Branch police sought the help of the Bombay police. The Bombay police nabbed four Tigers—Mahendran (26), Kumar (29), Ranjit (30), and Raja (27)—and handed them over to the Madras police. All four were escapees from Velur Prison.

Iran

Lebanese Foreign Minister Buwayz Ends Visit

LD2301144793 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA—The visiting Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz returned home Sunday [23 January], winding up a five-day visit and talks with high ranking Iranian officials.

Prior to his departure, Buwayz said that Lebanon has launched full-scale efforts for implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 calling for return home of over 400 Palestinians expelled from their homeland by the Zionist regime last month.

Buwayz said "the United Nations now faces a historical test for enforcing the resolution...we hope that the organization would abandon its policy of double standard."

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who was at Tehran Airport to see off his Lebanese counterpart, said Tehran and Beirut share a united stand on the Palestinian deportees.

"Both countries believe that the Palestinian Muslims should be returned to their homeland under the Security Council Resolution 799," he said.

Velayati also referred to "friendly and brotherly" relations between Iran and Lebanon and said the Tehran-Beirut Joint Economic Commission would soon be formed to coordinate mutual economic cooperation.

"We have reached good agreements and taken decisions on mutual cooperation in cultural, scientific, educational and research areas after two rounds of talks with the Lebanese foreign minister," Velayati said.

While in Tehran, the Lebanese foreign minister also met with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri.

Iraq's 'Miscalculations,' Allied Strikes Viewed

NC2501044493 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 14 Jan 93 pp 14, 3

[H. Rahmatollahi commentary: "Iraq; Yet Another Miscalculation"]

[Excerpts] Finally, as was foreseen, U.S., British, and French planes carried out an air strike against Iraq last night and bombed predetermined targets. Conflicting reports indicate that the Iraqi representative at the United Nations announced that Iraq has accepted all the allied conditions.

—Did Iraq not foresee the allied strike?

—Why did Iraq do things that increased the possibility of an attack?

—Will the extent of the allied attack be limited or will the United States seize the opportunity to remove Saddam's regime?

Some political observers do not believe the Iraqi regime fully understands world conditions and the repercussions of its actions, citing this as the reason for its ultimate miscalculations. In other words, they believe Iraq's assessments in making these provocative acts can be grouped in the following categories:

—The United States, the leader of the military actions against Iraq, is in a transition period. On 20 January, Republican George Bush will hand over his seat to Democrat Bill Clinton.

Experience shows that during the transition period, the United States usually becomes inactive and that after the new president comes to power, it compiles new programs to face circumstances.

This is generally correct. However, it does not conform with the current new world conditions. The United States is going through its transition phase at a time when it is actively participating in world crises in which it is the main actor. Bush is leaving the White House at a time when, on one hand, he has sent troops to Somalia

and on the other, U.S. soldiers are preparing to intervene in the Bosnian crisis. This, coupled with Washington's and Moscow's agreement on important world problems and the signing of the START II agreement, and the gathering of the United States, France, and Britain in confronting the Iraqi problem, should have made Baghdad rational enough to think of the consequences of its acts. Actually, the new world conditions are such that even if Bush has only one hour in office, the possibility of a military confrontation and America's involvement still exists. In addition, the domestic situation in America increases the probability of a military attack on Iraq. On the domestic scene, a Republican President with a powerful stance in the international arena is giving up his seat, to everyone's disbelief, to a young Democrat. Under such conditions, the possibility of involving the Democrats in a military adventurism, the initial sparks of which were lighted during the Republican administration, is highly probable. However, in each military attempt, Bush will have Clinton's decisive support. Clinton has recently repeatedly expressed his and his Democratic cabinet's support for decisive steps against Iraq's adventurism.

Another group of political observers believes that Iraq has resorted to actions which, under current conditions, appear to be logical. They believe the Iraqi regime is fragile, in fact, that it is basically not in power in a large part of northern Iraq. In the south as well, Baghdad's sovereignty has been violated with the allied no-fly zone. This comes at a time when the continuation of the extensive economic sanctions and the repeated visits by UN delegations to Iraq to destroy weapons of mass destruction paint a bleak picture of Baghdad's future. Under such conditions, it is logical for Iraq to do all it can to emerge from its current situation. [passage omitted]

Irrespective of which view we support, we should accept the fact that Saddam has made a mistake once again on the reaction by America and its allies. Last night, allied planes bombed targets inside Iraq. Some believe that this time Saddam has lost the game he has played all these years. In other words, experience has proven that each time Iraq attempts to carry out maneuvers, it retreats once the West acts decisively. This time a miscalculation has forced Iraq to retreat, but with some delay. Some reports indicate that Iraq has accepted all the allied conditions. Reports also indicate that it has taken Iraq two years of constant effort to renovate a large degree of the destruction that was brought about by the allied bombings [during the Gulf War], and that with its current miscalculation the Iraqi people have entered a new phase in which they will have to endure a great deal.

Now the world is waiting for the repercussions of the Western attacks against Iraq. Some believe that with Iraq's surrender to the allies' conditions, the military actions against Baghdad will end. Others believe that the United States and its allies will seize the opportunity to free themselves of the Iraqi regime. However, only the future, the extent of the allied forces' operations, and the outcome of the Iraqi regime's miscalculations will show. Whatever the future may be, provoking foreign elements to justify their presence in the region, carrying out a military attack on the territory of an independent country, and destroying the resources of Muslims is unacceptable by all and is contrary to the interests of the regional people.

Failed Selection of U.S. Attorney General Viewed

LD2401203593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] It had not yet been three days since the assumption of office of U.S. President Bill Clinton, when he was forced, under pressure from U.S. public opinion and mass media, to accept the resignation of Ms. Zoe Baird, the nominee for the position of U.S. attorney general. In the opinion of political observers, this is in fact the first political blow to Clinton's position in the White House, especially when it is rated as a very meaningful blow in the context of the traditional rivalry between the U.S. President and the Congress.

The reason is that the U.S. President, from the very outset of his rule, will be compelled to act cautiously in the face of the U.S. Congress. In her capacity as the U.S. attorney general, Ms. Baird was supposed to be the protector of law and the rights of the U.S. people, but in her personal life she, by disregarding the immigration law, had illegally employed a Peruvian couple to look after the children and work as a personal driver.

The main subject of her incompetence to hold this position is not important because, in the U.S. society, many law enforcers are themselves violators of the law when it comes to personal links. But as Ms. Baird, the 44-year-old attorney, was the first woman to be nominated to the important post of U.S. attorney general, this provided a suitable subject for those elements, who believe in the superiority of men to women in U.S. society, to force Ms. Baird to tender her resignation.

This is most significant at a time when there exists within the U.S. Senate and its justice committee, which are required to approve her competence, certain members who are not willing, at the very start of Bill Clinton's presidency, to pinpoint his weakness, so that the Congress may have a superior position over the White House within the U.S. Government in the future. In this midst, Clinton's firm support for Ms. Baird, until the last moment of her appearance before the justice committee of the U.S. Senate for testimony, in fact, points to the reality that apparently the U.S. President did not anticipate that the U.S. mass media, through backing the Congress, would overplay the subject on the violation of the law by the next attorney general to such an extent.

Hence, Ms. Baird was in fact prevented from the very outset from adopting a firm stance against the violators of the law. Perhaps the issue that the majority of Senate

seats are controlled by the Democrats had brought about the wrong notion in Clinton that, with their cooperation, he would manage to secure the favorable opinion of the majority of the Senate justice committee members for approving Ms. Baird's competence. However, apparently the release of public opinion polls (?resourced) by the U.S. mass media, which showed that the unanimous majority [as heard] of participants in the opinion polls were opposed to her nomination to the position of the country's attorney general, duly proved to Clinton that his opponents have succeeded in securing an appropriate subject for inflicting a blow on him.

For this very reason, Clinton, in an attempt to check the negative impact of this move, made an official apology to the Americans for the mistake committed by him. It must be said that in the U.S. society, this incident, (?too) similar to tens of identical cases, was an interesting subject so that the mass media could propagate the model of the U.S. society to the people all over the world. A model whose main [word indistinct] are propagated by the U.S. mass media as freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. However, in practice, those who have lived in the U.S. society know well as to what extent these slogans have been realized and to what degree U.S. officials adhere to them.

Pakistan

Government Warns Washington About Human Rights Report

BK2601061993 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Jan 93 p 12

[By Muhammad Saleh Zaafir]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 25—Pakistan has brought it to the notice of the United States that if Washington tried to circulate and publicise the report on human rights in Pakistan for 1992 prepared by the US State Department and asks Pakistan to treat it as an official document, Pakistan would consider it as an interference in her internal affairs. In that case Pakistan would officially lodge strong protest with the United States.

According to senior spokesman of the Foreign Office, Pakistan has expressed its reservations to Washington about the report through diplomatic channels. Islamabad's point of view had been made clear to the United States, sources added.

The report, which was made public last week officially by the State Department, among other things said that the powers of the President of Pakistan under the Eighth Amendment were highly controversial. It also said that the Chief of the Army Staff in Pakistan wields considerable influence on major political issues.

The report has held the paramilitary forces such as Rangers and Frontier Constabulary and the provincial police responsible for human rights abuses.

The spokesman, terming the contents of the report as unrealistic said Islamabad hoped that Washington would be willing to entertain such report from other countries about the human rights situation prevailing in the United States.

Meanwhile the concerned ministries and organisations have completed deliberations over the externment of illegal immigrants, who had come to Pakistan in the wake of Afghanistan Jehad and had no business to stay in Pakistan any longer. These people have brought bad name to Pakistan due to their suspicious activities.

Lt Gen [Lieutenant General] Javaid Nasir, Director General ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] has an important meeting with M Akram Zaki, Secretary-General Foreign Affairs in the Foreign Office on Monday to finalise the recommendations on the matter. These recommendations would be submitted to the Prime Minister on his return from Davos (Switzerland) early next month.

The Muslim reliably learnt on authority that the Federal Government in consultation with the provincial government had decided that all illegal immigrants, non-registered non-governmental organisations (NGOs) would be asked to pack up before the middle of March.

Pakistan by taking this step would remove one of the major objections from Washington about Islamabad's activities, which according to the US, made Pakistan a "fit case" for being declared as a terrorist state. The United States has already asked Pakistan that Washington would observe Pakistan's behaviour during these days, before making a final decision.

Iraqi Official Comments on UNSC Resolution

BK2501184493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Iraq has deplored the desecration of the historic Babri Masjid [mosque] at Ayodhya in India and demanded its reconstruction without delay. This was stated by the special adviser to the Iraqi foreign minister, Mr. Zukham al-Zahabi, while addressing a news conference in Islamabad today. He said his country supports all UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir, Palestine, and Bosnia and demands their just and equitable implementation.

President, Prime Minister Congratulate India

BK2601025093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif have congratulated their Indian counterparts on the Republic Day of India today.

In his message to Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma, the president has said Pakistan sincerely desires to establish tension- free and cooperative relations with

India. These relations are in the interest of the two countries which will help maintain peace and stability in the region.

In his message to Narasimha Rao, the prime minister has expressed the hope that through mutual efforts, they will succeed in establishing ties based on good neighborliness. Pakistan will be making sincere efforts for peace, stability, and progress in the region.

'Tribesmen' Selling Weapons to Bosnian Muslims

BK2501123193 Islamabad THE NATION in English 25 Jan 93 p 5

[Text] Peshawar—Certain tribesmen and Afghan nationals are selling arms at high prices to the Bosnian connections, reliable soruces informed THE NATION. According to details, the Bosnians have started purchasing arms from Pakistani tribesmen and Afghan nationals who are exploiting their helplessness and looting their Muslim brothers, instead of concessions. The Bosnian connections, which are in arms deal with both Pakistanis and Afghans, have to pay Rs [rupees] 50,000 for a single Kalashnikov whereas its price in open market is 12,000. The price Kalashnikov had recently fallen to Rs 4,000 and inside Afghanistan one can have a Kalashnikov even at the price of an ordinary camera. However, it was due to the Bosnians' need and interest in the deal that the prices have jumped up suddenly.

Joint Naval Exercises Planned With Saudi Arabia

BK2501122593 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 25 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 24—A number of naval units of royal Saudi Army arrived at Karachi port today to participate in joint maritime exercise with Pakistan Navy. The exercise code named Naseem-ul-Bahr is scheduled to last for about two weeks. Such joint exercises with royal Saudi Navy are held periodically and are indicative of the close collaboration between the navies of two Muslim countries. The exercise has been divided into harbour, tactical and analysis phases. Tactical phase will take place in north Arabian sea. Various tactical doctrines involving different types of weapons and sensors will be exercised for the mutual professional benefit of two navies.

Benazir Bhutto Defends Taking Parliament Post

BK2501124193 Islamabad THE NATION in English 25 Jan 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] Karachi—Leader of the Opposition Benazir Bhutto has said that Opposition-Government contacts are part and parcel of politics. She was informally talking to a group of newsmen here. Benazir said in the political game, all players including the government have the right to play their cards and in the same vein no one can stop us from making any move we deem fit.

Regarding her election to the Standing Committee on Foreign Relations she said when PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] had decided to contest this seat, the government at once nominated me in face of its impending defeat. She termed it a political victory in the sense that the same people who called her traitor and terrorist are now talking of conciliation.

She refuted any secret deal with the government and reiterated her demand for a national government of consensus after free and fair elections under an independent Election Commission.

Benazir said Nawaz Shariff has got nothing to do with Asif Zardari's release. She said the coming Central Executive Committee meeting on January 28 will decide our Presidential candidate for the coming Presidential polls.

Expressing grave concern over the bulldozing of some parts of ex- Federal Minister and PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leader Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan's residence in Gujarat by the administration, she severely criticised the deliberate act on the part of the authorities. She demanded immediate compensation for the affected person who is not only a former Federal Minister but also a sitting MNA [member of National Assembly]. She also called for strict action against those responsible for this act and said the incident clearly shows political motives. She said the Opposition will not be cowed down by such acts.

According to a report from Islamabad Benazir Bhutto has directed all party leaders to refrain from is issuing statements contrary to party policy. She said that as a result of some unnecessary statements in the last few days, the PPP leadership has had to face embarrassment. She advised those differing from the party line to settle their differences on the party platform and not publicly.

According to another report: Co-Chairperson Pakistan Peoples Party has decided to intervene personally to end the on-going rift between PPP Punjab Chief Jehangir Badr and ex-General Secretary Ahmed Saeed Awan. Benazir Bhutto has summoned Ahmed Saeed Awan to Karachi for talks.